

proposed funding programs until a decision is made. Unlike regular spending bills, rescissions packages only require a simple majority in both chambers for passage.

What's in the rescission package?

- Nearly half of the rescission cuts come from two accounts related to child health care: a **\$5.1 billion cut to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and a \$1.9 billion cut to the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund**. The cuts would include \$3.1 billion in unobligated CHIP funds from FY17, \$2 billion in recovery funds from the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, and \$1.865 billion from the \$2.4 billion available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund.
- **\$800 million cut to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation:** The cut would rescind funds authorized under the Affordable Care Act from fiscal years 2011-2019. The center was created to try new payment and service delivery models that could reduce expenditures under Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Fund (CHIP). The administration has said these funds are more than the amounts that would be needed to carry out planned activities for FY2018 and FY2019.
- **\$4.3 billion from the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program,** = Aan Energy Department program that supports the development of advanced technology vehicles and hasn't made a loan since 2011.
- Remaining rescissions come from a variety of government funds and grants across departments including railroad unemployment insurance programs, Ebola response account, Hurricane Sandy funds that states haven't claimed and more. Additional info can be found here.

While rescission packages only require a simple majority, and are not subject to a Senate filibuster, there is a large amount of uncertainty that it will pass. While it is expected to easily coast through the House with Republican support, the Senate will be a different story. A number of Senate Republicans have already expressed their disinterest in the proposal and in order to pass, Republicans can't afford to lose a single vote while Arizona Senator John McCain is home recovering from a recent cancer treatment. Nonetheless, Congress can expect to see more rescission packages coming from the White House as they have stated that this is the first of many to come. A second rescission request in the coming weeks will attempt to claw back funding from the recently passed omnibus bill.

**NCSL Contacts:** Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

## House to Vote Wednesday on Farm Bill

On Wednesday, the House will consider [H.R. 2](#), the Agriculture & Nutrition Act of 2018 more commonly known as the House's 2018 Farm Bill. The bill reauthorizes several key agriculture and nutrition programs for five years, through fiscal year 2023. The Congressional Budget Office estimates \$867 billion in total farm bill spending, which includes nutrition, crop insurance, conservation and other farm programs. The bill contains 11 titles with the major themes and changes impacting states, which are detailed in NCSL's [analysis](#) of the legislation.

Wednesday's vote will be close, given that the legislation, as currently drafted, has been vocally criticized by House conservatives and House Democrats, albeit for different reasons. Members of the House Freedom Caucus, three dozen of the most conservative members of the House, as well as conservative groups, including Heritage Action and Americans for Prosperity, have criticized the farm subsidies as an unfair benefit to wealthy farms and large agricultural businesses. Democrats have overwhelmingly opposed the current legislation as it imposes new work requirements on five to seven million people who are enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Without Democratic support, several members of the Freedom Caucus will need to vote for the legislation for it to pass. Even if it passes, the House legislation is likely D.O.A. in the Senate, which is currently drafting its own Farm Bill.

On the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, President Donald Trump has signaled that he will veto any legislation that does not impose stricter work requirements on SNAP recipients. However, the work requirements are the most controversial aspect of the legislation and it is unlikely that changes to the program will pass the Senate.

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[NCSL's analysis of the House Farm Bill](#)

**NCSL Contacts:** [Abbie Gruwell \(SNAP\)](#), [Ben Husch \(Agriculture\)](#)

**DYK?** Four states—Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia—call themselves commonwealths. The distinction between a commonwealth and a state is in name only as there is no difference in their relationship to the nation as a whole.

So why are they called commonwealths? Mostly because of the preference of their founders. For example, in Massachusetts, the term commonwealth was preferred by a number of political writers in the years leading up to 1780, when the Massachusetts constitution officially designated the state as such. The preference is believed to have existed perhaps because there was "some anti-monarchical sentiment in using the word commonwealth."

## **House Approves 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act**

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On April 27, the House of Representatives approved, 393-13, [H.R. 4](#), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018. The bill would reauthorize FAA programs and the federal aviation taxes that fund FAA programs and operations for five years through Sept. 30, 2023. The prior reauthorization expired in September 2015, which has resulted in five short-term extensions. For more detailed information on what the bill includes, see NCSL's [Information Alert](#).

**NCSL Contacts:** [Ben Husch](#), [Kristen Hildreth](#)

## **Net Neutrality Vote This Wednesday**

Senate Democrats filed a discharge petition last week in order to force a vote to save the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) net neutrality rules from repeal. A discharge petition would use authority under the Congressional Review Act to nullify the FCC's vote this past December to roll back the rules. These rules explicitly banned blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization by internet providers, but were reversed by a new set of guidelines introduced by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai.

To pass, the resolution will need a simple majority in both chambers. The Senate will vote this Wednesday and the chances of receiving 51 votes looks promising. Although, the bill is said to be dead on arrival in the Republican-controlled House. While the resolution has little chance of becoming enacted, Democrats plan to make their support for net neutrality regulations a popular campaign issue in the upcoming midterm elections.

**NCSL Contact:** [Danielle Dean](#)

## **Secretary DeVos Approves the ESSA Plans of South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Colorado and Kentucky**

As of May 11, the U.S. Department of Education announced the approval of South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Colorado and Kentucky's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plans. Each state is tasked with developing an ESSA plan unique to the needs of their students. To date, 44 state and territory plans have now been approved. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos applauded the states and reiterated the need to "use these plans as a starting point, rather than a finish line, to improve outcomes for all students."

South Carolina's plan includes a total of nine ways a student's college and career readiness may be measured. The varied metrics enable students to take advantage of the world class knowledge and skills of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. South Carolina's plan also includes a student engagement survey, giving each respective student a voice in the accountability system. "South Carolina's ESSA plan embodies our vision that every graduate is prepared for success in college, career and citizenship," said South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman.

Virginia's plan includes chronic absenteeism and the Standards of Accreditation Rating indicator as new methods to measure quality and student success. The approved ESSA plan also sets forth processes intended to support and improve the academic growth and English learner progress of identified schools. Virginia's ESSA plan "reflects the state's mission to increase student learning and academic achievement," said Virginia's Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven M. Constantino.

Alabama's plan includes a framework to join with local education agencies to enhance early learning and improve alignment of early learning programs from birth through third grade. The approved plan also includes the creation of the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program, in which the state will use state-authorized assessments and key performance indicators to profile a school, school system or both entities.

Colorado's plan includes the creation of the ESSA Application for School Improvement, intended to provide schools identified for Comprehensive and Targeted Support and Improvement with access to services and funding that supports their unique needs. "We have used this process to re-engage with many of our schools, districts, and stakeholders across the state over the last two years to get feedback on the how our current system is working. The conversations were deep and very helpful to the department and other stakeholders as

"we work collectively to leverage ESSA to improve outcomes for our highest need students in Colorado", says Colorado's Education Commissioner Kathy Anthes.

Kentucky's approved ESSA plan includes goal setting related to achievement gaps: cutting the achievement gap for each student group in half by 2030 and increasing the graduation rate for all students and each student group. The plan also acknowledges 2017-2018 as a transition year, in which performance on indicators will be used to determine low-performing schools and whether targeted support and improvement or comprehensive supported and improvement will be provided. Systems will be fully implemented during the 2018-2019 school year, leading up to one to five-star designation for a school or district. Schools that reflect noteworthy achievement gaps will not qualify for earning the highest ratings. "Schools and districts will be held to a higher level of accountability under this plan. Raising the bar is essential if Kentucky is to make the strides in student performance we intend to make," said Kentucky's interim Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis.

A [complete list of state plans](#), both approved and pending.

***NCSL Contacts:*** [Joan Wodiska](#), [Miranda McDonald](#)

**DYK?** Just in time for the MLB All-Star Game at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., this summer, the Library of Congress will feature an exhibition about the origins and history of baseball. The handwritten "Laws of Base Ball," which historians have called the "Magna Carta" of the game after they were decided at a convention in 1857, will be among the artifacts featured in the new exhibition "Baseball Americana" opening June 29 at the Library of Congress. The exhibition will explore baseball's past and present and how the game has forged a sense of community for players and fans across the country.

### **Tennessee Department of Education Awaiting ESSA Compliance Ruling**

The Tennessee Department of Education is awaiting to hear back from the US Department of Education regarding whether emergency legislation is in compliance with Every Student Succeeds Act standards, which require states to test students annually in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school. This year, the state test "TN Ready" was affected by online glitches, deeming the results unreliable. In response, the Tennessee State Legislature passed legislation aimed to assert that "no adverse action be taken against any student, teacher, school or district based on this year's TN Ready results."

Tennessee's Education Commissioner Candice McQueen, has maintained that the glitches were the result "deliberate attacks" on the systems of Questar Assessment—TDOE's computer systems vendor. The state's ESSA plan was approved last August, in which TN Ready was included as a measurement of accountability standards.

***NCSL Contacts:*** [Joan Wodiska](#), [Miranda McDonald](#)

## **First Lady Melania Trump Unveils "Be Best"**

On May 7, first lady Melania Trump revealed her first initiative entitled Be Best, which seeks to promote well-being, positive social media behaviors and support families impacted by the opioid crisis. The well-being component of the initiative includes emphasis on healthy living, encouragement, kindness and respect through which adults may impact the futures of children. The initiative's focus on social media seeks to tackle cyberbullying and encourage children to "choose their words wisely and speak with compassion." The first lady's initiative also seeks to bring attention to the effects of opioid addiction. On the initiative, Mrs. Trump said: "It remains our generation's moral imperative to take responsibility and help our children manage the many issues they are facing today, including encouraging positive social, emotional and physical habits."

**NCSL Contacts:** [Joan Wodiska](#), [Miranda McDonald](#)

## **New Leadership and Opportunity to Address Student Homelessness**

Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Jason Botel was recently elected Vice-Chair of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness for 2018. "...we have new levers at our disposal to track and provide services for families and students experiencing homelessness through the Every Student Succeeds Act," Botel said. State legislators or staff working on student homelessness are encouraged to contact [Joan Wodiska](#). NCSL is working to identify state-led examples to inform the Council on Homelessness.

**Contacts:** [Joan Wodiska](#), [Miranda McDonald](#)

**DYK?** From Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico, whose 250 structures have been continuously inhabited since the 12th century, to the White Horse Tavern, a bar in Newport, Rhode Island, that opened its doors in 1673, America's buildings are as historic as they are diverse. [Check out this list](#) of the oldest building in every state compiled by Business Insider.

**The 2018 NCSL Legislative Summit begins July 30 – [Register Here](#)**

**[Read the April 30, 2018 Capitol-to-Capitol.](#)**

Like Capitol-to-Capitol? Have ideas or suggestions for how it can be improved? Please take two minutes to let us know in this [very short survey](#)!

We are always looking for interesting trivia about states, legislatures and American history. If you have some great facts, don't keep them to yourself. Let us know by clicking [here](#). We will likely include them in a future edition of Capitol to Capitol!

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact [Max Behlke](#).

[Read More](#)

*Capitol to Capitol is a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures. NCSL is recognized as a formidable lobbying force in Washington, D.C. NCSL works to protect states from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal pre-emption of state authority, and seeks to provide state legislatures the flexibility they need to innovate and be responsive to the unique needs of their residents. NCSL's advocacy is guided by the policy directives and resolutions adopted during NCSL's Legislative Summit.*

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Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

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7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

**From:** Jeff Dillon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 2:29 PM  
**To:** Jeff Dillon; Micah Derry  
**CC:** Rep01; Rep02; Rep03; Rep04; Rep05; Rep06; Rep07; Rep08; Rep09; Rep10; Rep11; Rep12; Rep13; Rep14; Rep15; Rep16; Rep17; Rep18; Rep19; Rep20; Rep21; Rep22; Rep23; Rep24; Rep25; Rep26; Rep27; Rep28; Rep29; Rep30; Rep31; Rep32; Rep33; Rep34; Rep35; Rep36; Rep37; Rep38; Rep39; Rep40; Rep41; Niraj Antani; Rep43; Rep44; Rep45; Rep46; Rep47; Rep48; Rep49; Rep50; Rep51; Rep52; Rep53; Rep54; Rep55; Rep56; Rep57; Rep58; Rep59; Rep60; Rep61; Rep62; Rep63; Rep64; Rep65; Rep66; Rep67; Rep68; Rep69; Rep70; Rep71; Rep72; Rep73; Rep74; Rep75; Rep76; Rep77; Rep78; Rep79; Rep80; Rep81; Rep82; Rep83; Rep84; Rep85; Rep86; Rep87; Rep88; Rep89; Rep90; Rep91; Rep92; Rep93; Rep94; Rep95; Rep96; Rep97; Rep98; Rep99  
**Subject:** Key Vote Alert: Americans for Prosperity - Ohio OPPOSES House Bill 123  
**Attachments:** HB123KeyVoteAlert.pdf

**Importance:** High



**Americans for Prosperity – Ohio OPPOSES H.B. 123**  
May 15, 2018

Members of the Ohio House of Representatives:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity, the nation's largest free market grassroots organization, and our tens of thousands of activists across Ohio, I **urge you to vote against House Bill 123**, which would restrict access to financing for some of our most vulnerable citizens in the guise of attempting to help them. Our organization is making **H.B. 123 a 'Key Vote' and will be recording your decision on our Legislative Scorecard**.

Payday loan opponents would like us to believe that these financial instruments are nothing but poverty traps, intended to exploit the financial emergencies of low-income families and ensnare them into usurious loan agreements. If this were actually the case, we would be appalled, and rightly so. But in reality, payday loans are more often used

to smooth irregularities in household cash flow, allowing those with limited financial resources to access cash when they know they will be able to pay it back, as an advance on their next pay check.

According to a study by the Pew Charitable Trusts, 69 percent of payday loan customers use them for routine expenses like rent, food, and clothing. Additionally, rather than being trapped in a never-ending spiral of debt and exorbitant interest rates, the average payday loan customer spends five months of the year in debt and seven months out of it, which could indicate that they are a return customer. According to Thaya Brook Knight, Associate Director of Financial Regulation Studies at the Cato Institute, this data paints a picture of the average payday loan user that is starkly different from the victim that payday loan opponents would have us believe is the intended target of this lending practice. Rather than abusing low-income workers and families in need, the data supports that payday loans are used to improve the ability of borrowers to cover basic expenses and make their lives easier.

In fact, 81 percent of payday loan users say that without these loans, they would be forced to cut down on basic expenses like clothes and food.

Helping families improve their financial situations and make ends meet is a critical challenge that needs to be overcome, but restricting access to financing options, as H.B. 123 would do if enacted, shows how good intentions can sometimes produce bad policy.

For these reasons, I **strongly urge you to reject H.B. 123**. Again, your decision on this bill tomorrow will be recorded as a '**Key Vote**' on our **Legislative Scorecard**. I look forward to working together to advance other, better policies that will truly help Ohio families transform their lives.

Best Regards,



Micah Derry

State Director, Americans for Prosperity – Ohio

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has*

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Best Regards,

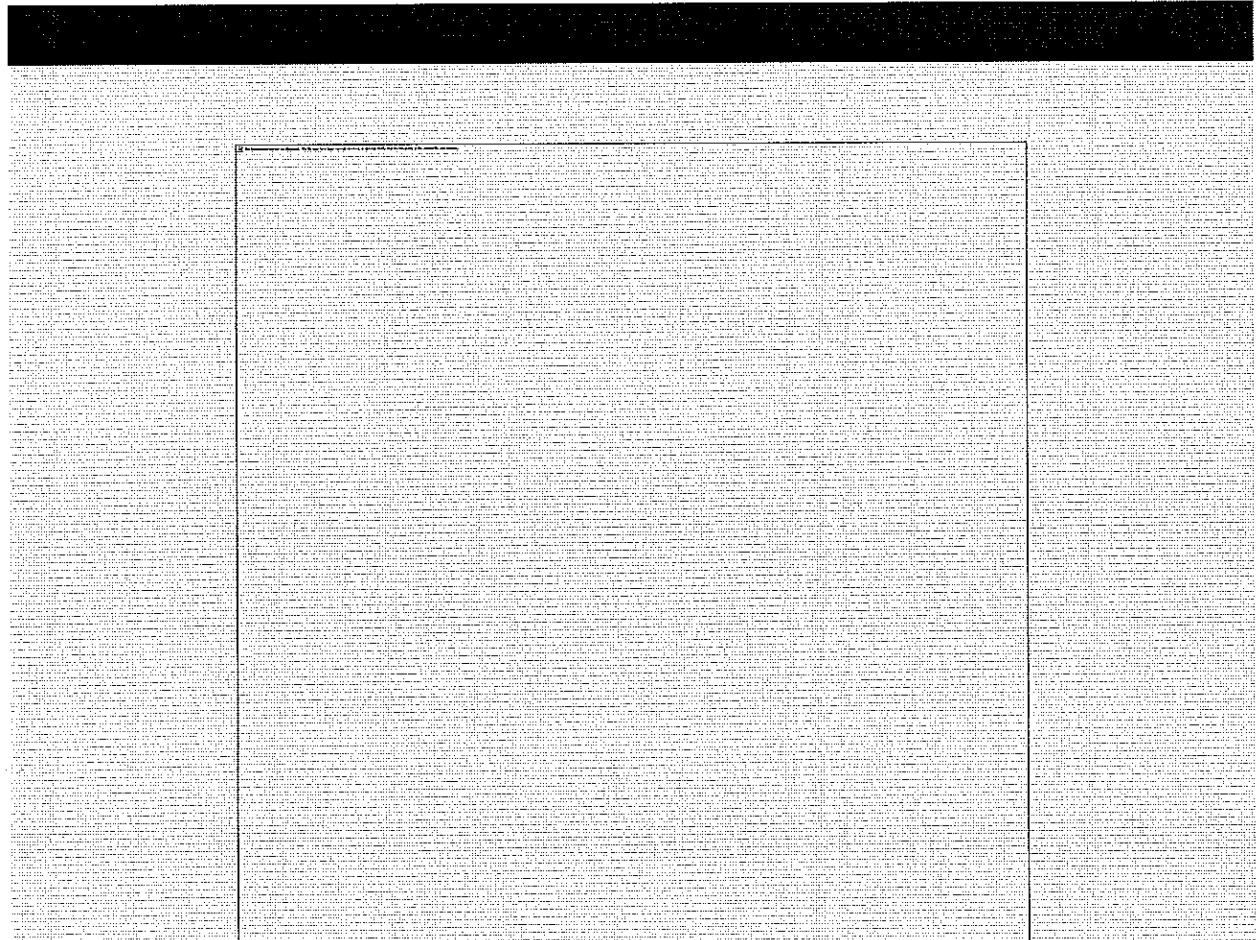


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**From:** Morning Consult  
**Sent:** Friday, June 1, 2018 4:11 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Washington Afternoon Update: Trump Says June 12 North Korea  
Summit Is Back On After Meeting With Kim Aide



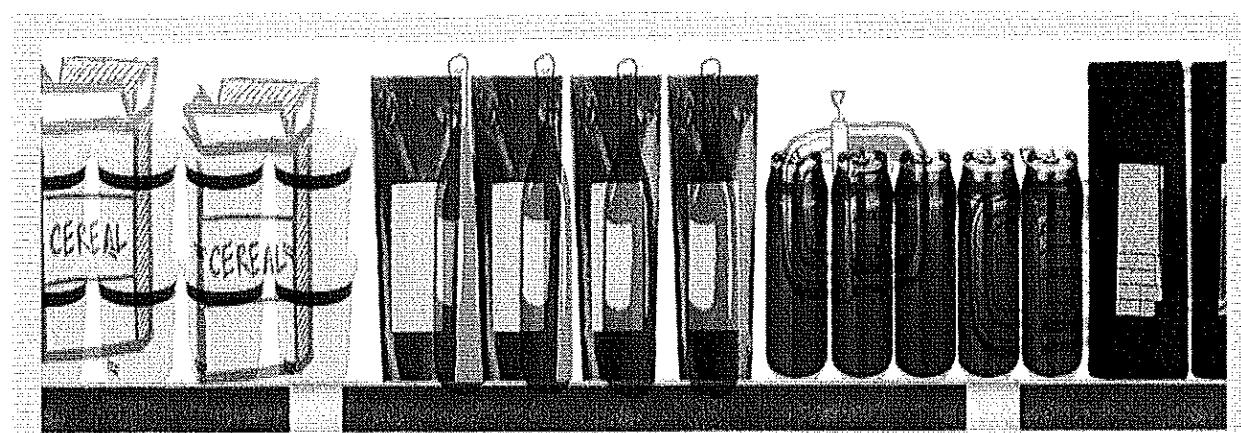
By Morgan Halvorsen

## Top Stories

- President Donald Trump said the canceled Singapore summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is back on after a meeting with North

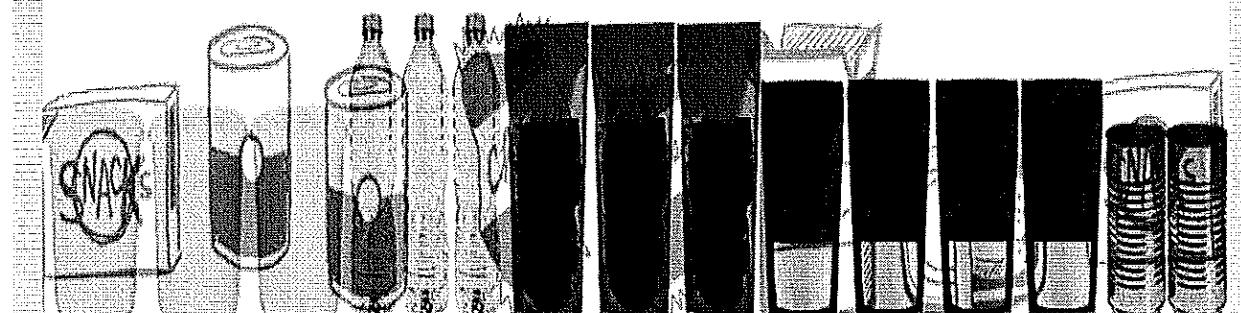
Korean official Kim Yong Chol in the Oval Office. Trump nixed the summit last week, alleging "open hostility" from the Asian country. ([The New York Times](#))

- Trump may have violated guidelines regarding the release of sensitive economic data by tweeting that he was "looking forward" to the May employment report more than an hour before the numbers were published. While the tweet did not include any specific economic information, it was correlated with a rise in the 10-year Treasury note and stock market futures. ([Politico](#))
- A political advocacy group funded by Charles and David Koch released a digital ad campaign praising Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.) for co-sponsoring a measure that rolls back regulations from the 2010 Dodd-Frank law. Americans for Prosperity President Tim Phillips noted that while his organization disagrees with Heitkamp on some things, such as her vote against the tax reform bill, "we hope to find common ground and work with Sen. Heitkamp on other issues moving forward." ([CNBC](#))



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**From:** Jeff Dillon

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 4:15 PM

**To:** Micah Derry; Jeff Dillon; Rep01; Rep02; Rep03; Rep04; Rep05; Rep06; Rep07; Rep08; Rep09; Rep10; Rep11; Rep12; Rep13; Rep14; Rep15; Rep16; Rep17; Rep18; Rep19; Rep20; Rep21; Rep22; Rep23; Rep24; Rep25; Rep26; Rep27; Rep28; Rep29; Rep30; Rep31; Rep32; Rep33; Rep34; Rep35; Rep36; Rep37; Rep38; Rep39; Rep40; Rep41; Niraj Antani; Rep43; Rep44; Rep45; Rep46; Rep47; Rep48; Rep49; Rep50; Rep51; Rep52; Rep53; Rep54; Rep55; Rep56; Rep57; Rep58; Rep59; Rep60; Rep61; Rep62; Rep63; Rep64; Rep65; Rep66; Rep67; Rep68; Rep69; Rep70; Rep71; Rep72; Rep73; Rep74; Rep75; Rep76; Rep77; Rep78; Rep79; Rep80; Rep81; Rep82; Rep83; Rep84; Rep85; Rep86; Rep87; Rep88; Rep89; Rep90; Rep91; Rep92; Rep93; Rep94; Rep95; Rep96; Rep97; Rep98; Rep99

**Subject:** KEY VOTE ALERT: Americans for Prosperity - Ohio Support Sub. S.B. 4

**Attachments:** AFP - Ohio Sub. SB 4 Key Vote House.pdf

**Importance:** High



### **Americans for Prosperity – Ohio SUPPORTS Sub. S.B. 4**

June 19, 2018

Members of the Ohio House of Representatives:

On behalf of tens of thousands of activists across the state of Ohio, I write urging you to vote 'YES' on Substitute Senate Bill 4, which will partially expunge the criminal records of individuals who incurred those records while victims of human trafficking. Enacting this legislation will provide them with a very real opportunity to move forward with their lives, and our organization actively promotes the elimination of precisely these types of external barriers to economic freedom and personal fulfillment.

**We urge you to vote 'YES' on Sub. S.B. 4. Americans for Prosperity – Ohio will include your vote in our legislative scorecard.**

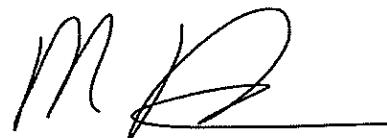
This bill will provide second chances to individuals who continue to face obstacles and burdens as a collateral consequence of having committed crimes that they had little to no choice in committing. Victims of human trafficking face coercion, threats, violence, and all manner of abuse from their captors and traffickers.

Lawmakers have the opportunity to act on popular, bipartisan, and common sense criminal justice reform in this session. This piece of legislation will help to restore victims of human trafficking by giving them the chance to move on from these senseless and misleading records, which only add insult to the injury of being trafficked. By allowing certain crimes to be expunged from the criminal records of victims of human trafficking, this legislation will allow survivors to move past the criminal activity that they were forced to commit and get a second chance in society, hopefully in a mutually beneficial manner.

Americans for Prosperity – Ohio applauds the bipartisan group of lawmakers that voted to advance this bill out of committee.

**Please consider voting 'YES' tomorrow on Sub. S.B. 4.**

Best Regards,



Micah Derry  
State Director  
Americans for Prosperity – Ohio

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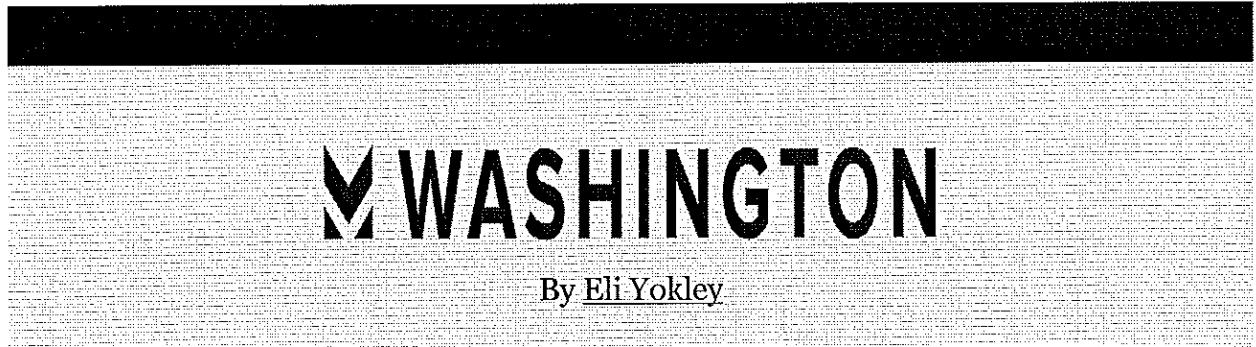
Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Hirschman".

**Micah Derry**  
State Director  
Americans for Prosperity – Ohio

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**From:** Morning Consult  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:17 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Washington: Vulnerable Senate Democrats Under Pressure on Kennedy Seat



## Top Stories

- Republicans are ramping up the pressure on red-state Democrats up for re-election this year, daring them to oppose President Donald Trump's eventual nominee to replace Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy when he retires in July. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said yesterday that the Senate will confirm Kennedy's successor this fall. ([The New York Times](#))
- Christopher Wray, the Federal Bureau of Investigation director, and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein are set to testify before the House Judiciary Committee today about the Department of Justice's inspector general report that allies of President Donald Trump claim proves bias in the bureau's Russia investigation. Their visit comes after Peter Strzok, a senior FBI agent who wrote text messages criticizing Trump during the 2016 campaign, was questioned in a closed-door session Wednesday. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
- Trump campaigned last night in Fargo, N.D., where he urged voters to fire Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D), who he's praised in the

past, in November. In his remarks, Trump criticized House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley, who lost his primary in New York Tuesday night and said he was happy House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and California Rep. Maxine Waters would remain the faces of the Democratic Party heading into the midterms. (The Associated Press)

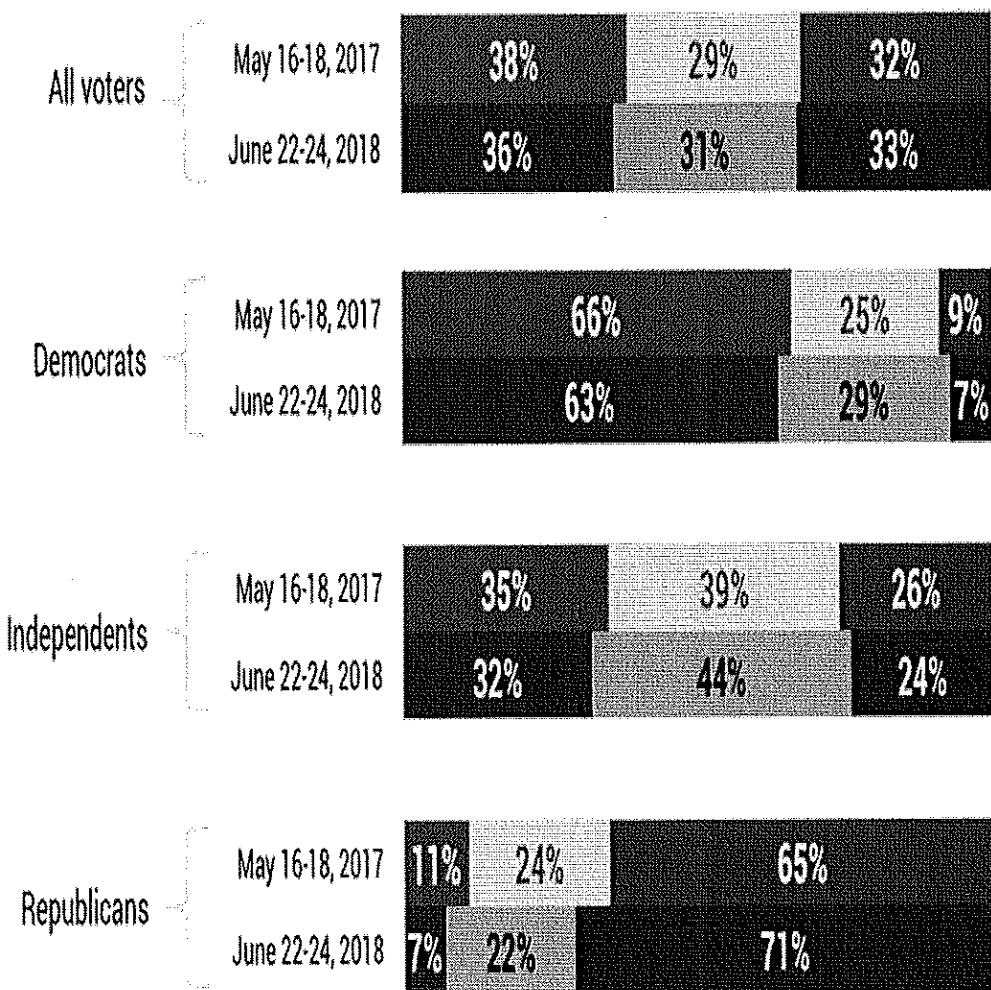
## Chart Review

**Republicans More Likely Than Before to Trust Trump Over Political Media**  
**Morning Consult**

# Trump or the Media? Voters' Trust Still Depends on Their Party

Who do you trust more to tell the truth?

■ The national media ■ Don't know/No opinion ■ President Trump's White House



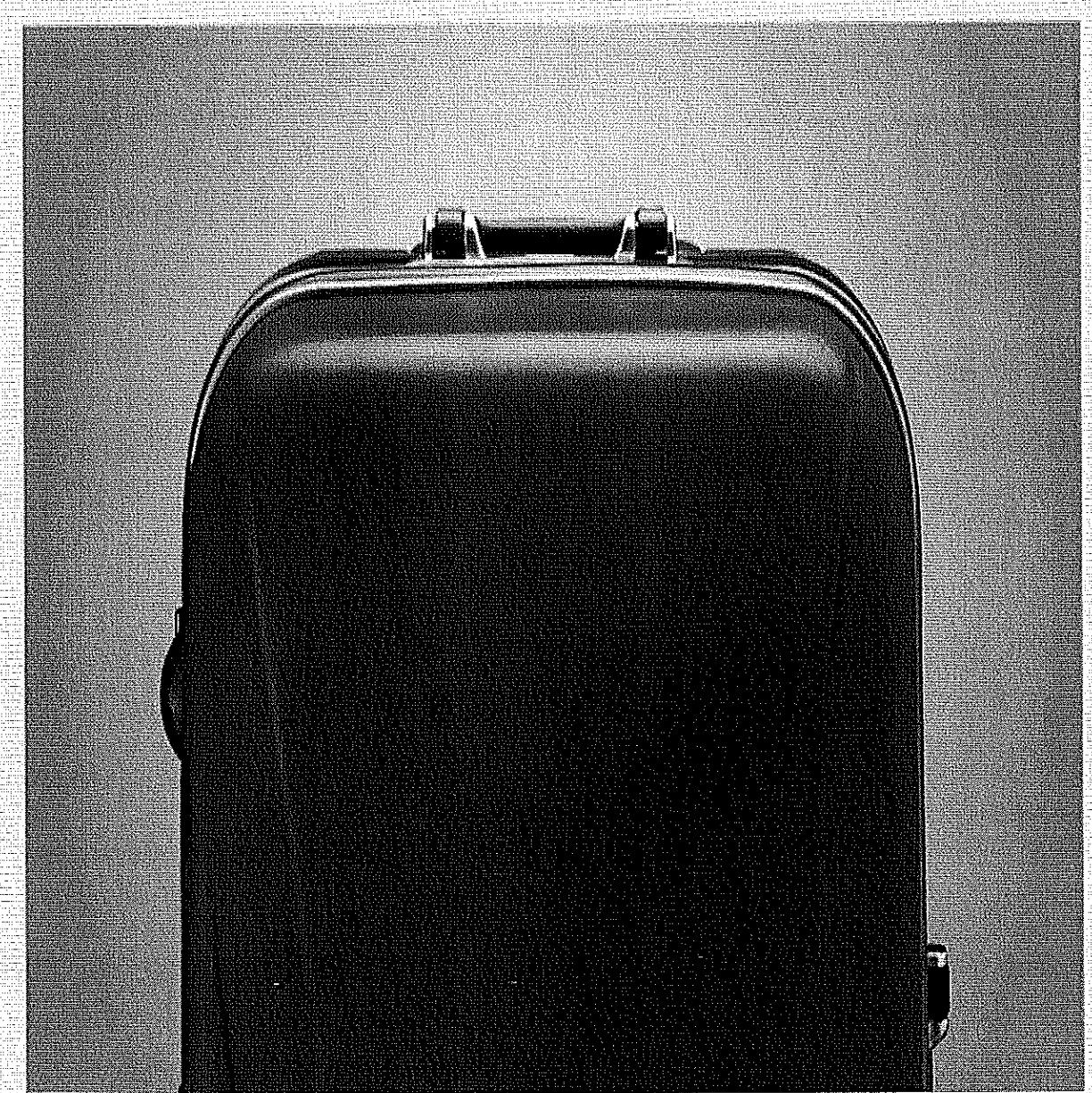
## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### THURSDAY

<u>George Mason University the Federalist Society host National Security Symposium</u>	9:30 a.m.
<u>DAG Rosenstein, FBI Director Wray testify at House Judiciary Committee</u>	9:30 a.m.
<u>Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on judicial nominations</u>	10 a.m.

### FRIDAY

No events scheduled



## **Report: The State of American Travel 2018**

Consumer insights on vacationing, transportation, and accommodation. This report features brand tracking data on airlines, hotels, and more.

## General

**Manafort had \$10 million loan from Russian oligarch: court filing**

**Nathan Layne, Reuters**

A search warrant application unsealed on Wednesday revealed closer links than previously known between President Donald Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort and a Russian oligarch with close ties to the Kremlin. In an affidavit attached to the July 2017 application, an FBI agent said he had reviewed tax returns for a company controlled by Manafort and his wife that showed a \$10 million loan from a Russian lender identified as Oleg Deripaska.

**Watchdog closes Zinke threat probe, citing lack of cooperation from Interior**

**Anthony Adragna, Politico**

The GAO said today it couldn't issue an opinion on whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated the law by reportedly threatening an Alaskan senator in a phone call because the agency didn't cooperate in its probe. Interior acknowledged Zinke phoned Senate Energy Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) one day after Murkowski voted against the GOP's legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

**Obama expected to hit the campaign trail for Democrats with help from Pelosi and Schumer**

**Brian Schwartz, CNBC**

Former President Barack Obama has been laying low when it comes to taking on President Donald Trump and the Republican Party. That's not going to last much longer.

**As U.S. hardens its borders, Canada debates whether to do the same or stand up to Trump**

**Vera Haller, Los Angeles Times**

Gbolahan Banjo says his bisexuality led to ostracism and beatings in his native Nigeria, where same-sex relationships are forbidden. So in early June, he made his way to a deserted road in upstate New York and walked across the border and into Canada.

**Xi Warns Mattis China Won't Surrender 'One Inch' of Territory**

**Bloomberg**

President Xi Jinping told U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis he wouldn't give up any territory that China considered its own, an unusually blunt warning as security disputes simmer below a fight over trade. Xi made his remarks while meeting Mattis on Wednesday in Beijing, the first such visit by a U.S. defense chief in more than four years.

**Congress snubs White House, won't fund new prison for geriatric inmates at Guantánamo**

**Carol Rosenberg, McClatchy DC**

In a setback to President Donald Trump's promise to make Guantánamo a permanent detention center, Congress has refused to pay for construction of a new \$69 million prison for the alleged 9/11 plotters and other former CIA captives. Commanders at the prison twice in recent weeks campaigned for the new building in sessions with visiting U.S. journalists.

**A Spymaster Steps Out of the Shadows**

**Mattathias Schwartz, The New York Times**

On June 4, John Brennan, the former C.I.A. director, made the long drive from suburban Virginia to New Jersey. He had plans to dine with his brother and an old high school friend.

## Presidential

### **Trump dubs Heitkamp a 'liberal Democrat,' urges her defeat**

**Darlene Superville, The Associated Press**

President Donald Trump urged voters Wednesday to fire "liberal Democrat" Sen. Heidi Heitkamp in November, claiming that she promised to be an independent mind but instead has voted in lockstep with her party leadership and against his agenda. Trump called instead for the election of Republican U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer, one of his staunchest allies in Congress.

### **Federal officials launch two reviews into Trump's handling of migrant children**

**Dan Diamond, Politico**

The GAO and the Health and Human Services inspector general both launched reviews Wednesday into the Trump administration's handling of thousands of migrant children separated from their families at the border. The GAO told Rep. Frank Pallone (N.J.) that it will audit the systems and processes used to track families as they were separated, including how the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement monitored each minor in its care, according to a letter obtained by POLITICO.

### **Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin Expect to Hold July Summit**

**Peter Nicholas et al., The Wall Street Journal**

President Donald Trump said Wednesday he will "most likely" meet with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in a summit next month in Europe. The president is scheduled to attend a North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit next month in Brussels and is also planning to visit the U.K.

### **As Summit Nears, NATO Allies Have One Main Worry: Trump**

**Steven Erlanger, The New York Times**

NATO has been preparing for its July summit meeting for a year now, but there is one wild card: President Trump. Nobody knows which president will show up - the truculent one railing about inadequate military spending by the allies or the boastful one taking credit for recent spending increases.

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## Senate

### **Kennedy Retirement Injects an Inflammatory New Issue Into Midterms**

**Jonathan Martin et al., The New York Times**

Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy's announcement on Wednesday that he would retire this summer immediately thrust the high court to the center of the battle for control of the Senate, with Republicans daring red-state Democrats to oppose the nominee to replace Justice Kennedy, and Democrats warning that a rush to seat a new justice before the election would further galvanize moderate and liberal voters. With the Republican majority already on a 51-49 knife's edge, senators and strategists from both parties said the clash over the balance of the Supreme Court would immediately overwhelm a campaign that to date had largely revolved around President Trump's conduct and issues surrounding the economy, immigration and health care.

### **Senators Quickly Pivot to SCOTUS Confirmation Mode**

**Jason Dick and John T. Bennett, Roll Call**

Senate Republican leaders on Wednesday quickly laid out the game plan for confirming a replacement for retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, wasting no time in stating they intended to confirm a new justice before the fall elections and flatly claiming there was literally nothing Democrats could do to delay that. "The Senate stands ready to fulfill its constitutional role by offering advice and consent on President Trump's nominee to fill this vacancy. We will vote to confirm Justice Kennedy's successor this fall," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

said on the floor just minutes after the news of Kennedy's retirement broke.

**Senate farm bill stalled by Rubio's Cuba crusade**  
**Liz Crampton and Catherine Boudreau, Politico**

Senate leadership's goal of holding a floor vote on the farm bill this week is now in doubt, as key farm-state lawmakers work to resolve a new demand from Sen. Marco Rubio over a provision that would promote agricultural trade with Cuba. The Florida Republican on Wednesday declared on Twitter that he'd block any new amendments to the farm bill unless the Senate votes to strike a provision that would allow USDA funding for foreign market development programs to be spent in Cuba - or until senators adopt his proposal to ban U.S. taxpayer dollars from being spent on businesses owned by the Cuban military.

**VA Nominee Faces Questions on Role in Jesse Helms Races**  
**Ben Kesling, The Wall Street Journal**

President Donald Trump's nominee to head the Department of Veterans Affairs has been preparing for his Senate confirmation hearing Wednesday by meeting with lawmakers in recent weeks to explain his views and his 30-year career in government as well as fielding questions about any role he has played in racially-charged politics. Robert Wilkie, a lawyer and Air Force Reserve officer currently serving as a Pentagon undersecretary in the latest of his decades of government and defense contracting posts, differs from many of the Washington outsiders usually preferred by Mr. Trump.

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## House

**Rosenstein and FBI chief will testify today in the House on alleged FBI bias in Russia probe**  
**Chris Megerian, Los Angeles Times**

As President Trump continues to rage against the Russia investigation clouding his administration, House Republicans are calling in top law enforcement officials for questioning and are escalating their demands for sensitive documents about the case. Deputy Atty. Gen. Rod Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray, both of whom were appointed by Trump, are scheduled to testify Thursday before the House Judiciary Committee about a recent Justice Department inspector general report that White House allies claim proves bias among FBI investigators in the Russia probe.

**Embattled FBI agent meets with Congress behind closed doors in 11-hour marathon**

**Jeremy Herb et al., CNN**

Embattled FBI agent Peter Strzok told lawmakers Wednesday in a marathon, closed-door interview that the anti-Trump text messages he exchanged with an FBI lawyer were part of an "intimate" conversation and he did not intend to act on any of the missives, according to Democrats in the meeting. But Republicans argued that Strzok's claims about the messages after the fact were simply not credible, and one lawmaker claimed to have learned new information from his interview Tuesday with the House Oversight and Judiciary Committees.

**Pelosi's path to speakership gets even harder**

**Heather Caygle and John Bresnahan, Politico**

Rep. Joe Crowley's stunning loss on Tuesday night to a first-time candidate makes this crystal clear: Nancy Pelosi's path back to the speaker's chair is getting more narrow by the day. But it may not ease the route for the leaders directly below her either.

**'Defining moment.' Activists say it's time for leadership change in the Democratic Party**

**Alex Roarty, McClatchy DC**

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is young, Latina, and boldly progressive - in other words, everything the Democratic Party's leadership is not. The party's activists are ready for that to change.

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## **States**

**Potentially expanding his executive power, Gov. Greg Abbott orders agency heads to run proposed rules by him first**  
**Emma Platoff, The Texas Tribune**

In a move that could expand the powers of his office, Gov. Greg Abbott has told Texas state agencies to submit proposed new rules to him before they are made available for public comment. Citing the "success of regulatory review at the federal level," Abbott's office wrote in a June 22 letter obtained by The Texas Tribune that his staff would review policies before they're published in the Texas Register, much as presidents do at the national level.

**New York Attorney General Probes T-Mobile-Sprint Deal's Impact on Prepaid Services**  
**Sarah Krouse and Corinne Ramey, The Wall Street Journal**

The New York attorney general's office is investigating how T-Mobile US Inc.'s \$26 billion deal to buy Sprint Corp. could impact competition in the pay-as-you-go wireless market, according to people familiar with the matter. Representatives from the state attorney general's office have contacted companies that sell prepaid phone services in recent weeks with questions about pricing and customers, the people said.

**Judge again orders Trump voter fraud commission to give documents to Maine's secretary of state**  
**Eric Russell, Portland Press Herald**

A federal judge has for the second time ordered the Trump administration to turn over documents to Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap related to his participation on a presidential

commission on voting integrity. The order, issued Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington, D.C., rejects the commission's contention that Dunlap is no longer entitled to any documents now that the commission is dissolved.

**As they voted in Democratic primary, many Marylanders appeared inclined to back Hogan this fall.**

**Steve Thompson and Fenit Nirappil, The Washington Post**

Dwight Hunter is tired of hearing about President Trump. Doesn't want to think about him. And like most Democrats, wishes his presidency were already over.

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## **Advocacy**

**Inside Facebook and Twitter's secret meetings with Trump aides and conservative leaders who say tech is biased**

**Tony Romm, The Washington Post**

Twitter and Facebook are scrambling to assuage conservative leaders who have sounded alarms - and sought to rile voters - with accusations that the country's tech giants are censoring right-leaning posts, tweets and news. From secret dinners with conservative media elite to private meetings with the Republican National Committee, the new outreach reflects tech giants' delicate task: satisfying a party in power while defending online platforms against attacks that threaten to undermine the public's trust in the Web.

**Koch Network Plans To Spend Millions Backing Trump's Court Pick**

**Kevin Robillard, HuffPost**

The powerful Koch network of conservative megadonors plans to spend seven figures backing President Donald Trump's Supreme Court pick if he nominates a candidate similar to Justice Neil Gorsuch to replace the retiring Anthony Kennedy, a network official said Wednesday. "Faced

with a vacancy on the highest court, we encourage President Trump to build on that success by nominating a Supreme Court Justice in the spirit of Justice Neil Gorsuch - a nominee who will respect the rule of law, interpret the Constitution as written, and not seek to advance a political agenda," said Sarah Field, the vice president for judicial strategy at conservative advocacy group Americans for Prosperity.

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## **Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives**

### **With Kennedy Gone, Justice Must Be Won at the Ballot Box**

**The Editorial Board, The New York Times**

If the last few days hadn't been dispiriting enough for those who believed the Supreme Court could still stand for reproductive freedom, equal rights for all Americans, a check on presidential power, a more humane criminal justice system and so much more, Wednesday afternoon brought the coup de grâce. Everyone knew it was coming sooner than later, but Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement, which he announced in a letter released hours after the court had issued its final rulings of the term, is still crushing.

### **Kennedy's retirement opens a void at the court's center**

**Editorial Board, The Washington Post**

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy's 30-year career on the Supreme Court was a historical accident. President Ronald Reagan's first choice to replace retiring Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. in 1987 was Judge Robert H. Bork, a cerebral but overly doctrinaire conservative; his nomination failed by a 58-to-42 vote in the Senate.

### **The Supreme Court's Banner Year**

**The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

The Supreme Court concluded a blockbuster term on Wednesday with a landmark ruling upholding the First Amendment rights of public workers. Justice Neil Gorsuch's first term on the Court and Anthony

Kennedy's last turned out to be a banner year for constitutional liberties. The Court saved its most anticipated decision for last as a 5-4 majority in *Janus v. Afscme* overturned the Court's flawed 1977 *Abood* decision that allowed states to require workers who don't belong to a union to pay "agency fees" to support collective bargaining.

**Analysis: Where Do We Go From Here?**  
**Stuart Rothenberg, Roll Call**

On Monday evening, Judy Woodruff asked me and USA Today's Susan Page on the "PBS NewsHour" how the country moves forward from its current state of division. I didn't have a good answer.

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## **Research Reports and Polling**

**Sixty-Two Percent View Planned Parenthood Favorably**  
**Jim Norman, Gallup**

Sixty-two percent of Americans hold a favorable opinion of Planned Parenthood, the powerful pro-choice group whose high-profile role in the abortion debate has thrust it into the news once again this month. President Donald Trump and Republican congressional leaders are attempting to cut off federal funding for the organization because of its role as a major provider of abortions across the nation.



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**From:** Citizens for Community Values  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 5, 2018 9:28 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Growing Stronger: CCV Team Grows with Addition of New Executive



# CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY VALUES

Since 1983 | [ccv.org](http://ccv.org)

## Citizens for Community Values Adds Curtis Wilson to Growing Team to Serve Churches & New Ministry Partners

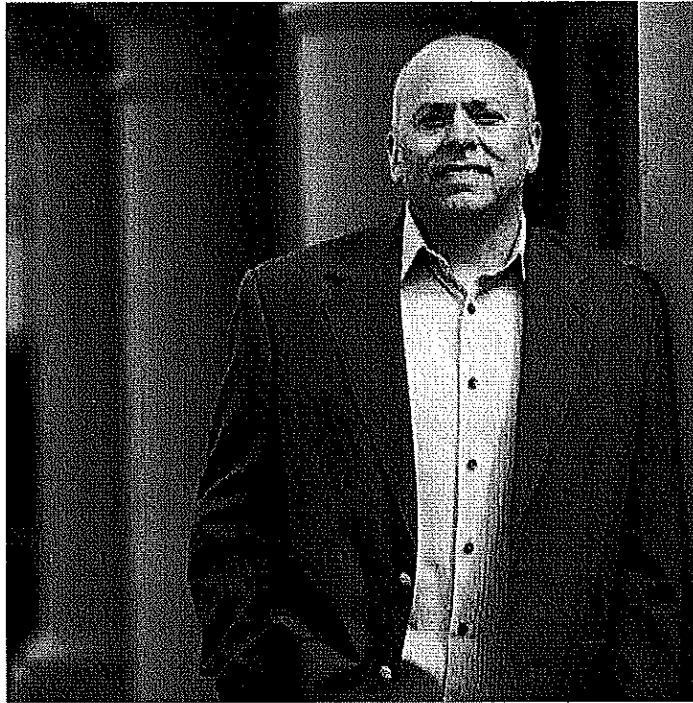
Citizens for Community Values announced that Curtis Wilson has joined the team as Vice President of Advancement. In the role, Curtis will spearhead CCV's efforts to support and serve Ohio churches, build strong ties with community allies, and cultivate support with families throughout the state who financially support the ministry.

"CCV is in a season of growth," said Aaron Baer, President of CCV. "We're on a mission to do justice in Ohio – to protect religious freedom, to build up families, and promote the dignity of life. The need for this mission grows daily, and adding Curtis to the team enables us to expand our work today, and ensure we'll be there tomorrow."

Curtis brings a unique skill set to CCV. Having worked in major donor development at Americans for Prosperity, and with churches throughout the world as a Global Engagement Officer with One Child Matters, Curtis will be reaching out across the state to come alongside churches and supporters.

"CCV is in a special position to transform Ohio for generations. You see real change when you empower the church to be a voice for freedom, life, and righteousness in Washington DC, at the Statehouse, at city councils, and at school boards. This is a message I'm thrilled to be taking to all corners of Ohio: come see all the good we can do when we stand up together," said Curtis Wilson.

Curtis will be leading a new project of CCV's called *The Daniel Initiative* to serve and empower churches to be light across the state and in their communities. More details on this revolutionary project will be released in the coming months.



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**From:** Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2016 3:02 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** The Leaflet - Free-Market Allies Celebrate Milton Friedman's Legacy



## Free-Market Allies Celebrate Milton Friedman's Legacy

Millions of families have benefitted from Milton Friedman's legacy and his vision of school choice being available to every American child. On July 21, free-market allies will celebrate educational choice on what would have been Friedman's 104th birthday!

Robert C. Enlow, president and CEO of the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, recently celebrated Friedman's passion for educational choice, calling it the fairest and most effective way to provide education. "The Friedmans' interest in improving the American education system began in 1955. By 1996, the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice was born, and now, more than half of the U.S. offers families school choice programs."

Free-market organizations advocating for school choice are the heirs to Friedman's legacy, and many of these groups, including The Heartland Institute, will celebrate the life and work of Friedman this week.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy and Northwood University Forum for Citizenship and Enterprise will celebrate Friedman at their 10th Annual Milton Friedman Legacy Day, which will be held on Friday, July 29 at 11:30 a.m. in Midland, MI.

Missouri's Show-Me Institute will celebrate the work of Friedman and the diverse set of educational options that exist in St. Louis by hosting its Friedman Legacy Day Event, keynoted by James Shuls, the distinguished fellow of education policy, on Friday, July 29 at noon.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation will honor Milton Friedman Legacy Day by hosting a birthday celebration for the renowned free-market economist on Thursday, July 28 at 3:30 p.m. The event will offer games, prizes, and ice cream, which will be enjoyed as attendees remember Friedman's life and his lasting impact on today's economy.

On Friday, July 29 at noon, the Arizona chapter of Americans for Prosperity will host a Milton Friedman Legacy Day luncheon in Tucson "to discuss the future of school choice and education reform, and to celebrate the birthday of the late economist Milton Friedman." Max Eden, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, will speak at the event.

If you are in Indianapolis for the American Legislative Exchange Council's event, please don't miss the Friedman Foundation ceremony on Friday, July 29.

In addition to all the festivities taking place across the nation, the Friedman Foundation has a big announcement scheduled for Friday, July 29. At its [Friedman Legacy Day](#), the board of directors and staff leadership at the Friedman Foundation will announce a new name and strategic plan for the organization "that will keep their vision of universal school choice at the forefront of the school choice movement." 2 Staff from The Heartland Institute will attend this exciting event to celebrate Friedman's life and legacy.

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

### Don't Miss the Premiere of *A Billion Lives*!

After a successful international film festival run, the award-winning documentary *A Billion Lives* will have its red-carpet North American premiere at the historic Pabst Theater in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Please join The Heartland Institute on Saturday, August 6 for a special showing of this important film. General admission [tickets start at only \\$20](#), and doors open at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit [A Billion Lives website](#).

### Budget & Tax

#### [Research & Commentary: Economic Development Programs](#)

#### [Rarely Work, New York's START-UP Is Latest Example](#)

New York's multimillion-dollar signature economic development plan, START-UP, was recently reported to have created only 408 jobs in its first two years, far below the numbers initially predicted by START-UP proponents. In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines START-UP and how it could serve as a cautionary tale for other states. "State tax incentives often fail to live up to their promises to encourage economic growth and are usually given for business and industries with the most political clout. Lawmakers should avoid complicating the tax code by creating new tax credits and exemptions and instead focus on attracting business by simplifying and lowering marginal tax rates," wrote Glans. [Read more](#)

### Education

#### [ACLU Appeals Nevada Judge's Ruling Upholding ESA](#)

Nevada ranks 49th in studies examining student achievement, but that hasn't stopped the American Civil Liberties Union from opposing school choice by appealing a Las Vegas judge's ruling determining the state's education savings accounts (ESA) program to be constitutional. ESAs allow parents to customize their children's education by empowering



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them with the ability to use public funds on a wide variety of educational goods or services. Government Relations Intern Tori Hart reports in a recent *Heartlander* article how the state's ESA program works to improve education. "Ninety-six percent of K-12 students in Nevada are eligible for the state's ESA program, which allows parents to transfer their students out of public schools and have access to all or a portion of the state money that would have been spent on their child in public school to spend on their choice of educational services, such as private school tuition, textbooks, or tutoring." [Read more](#)

#### **Energy & Environment**

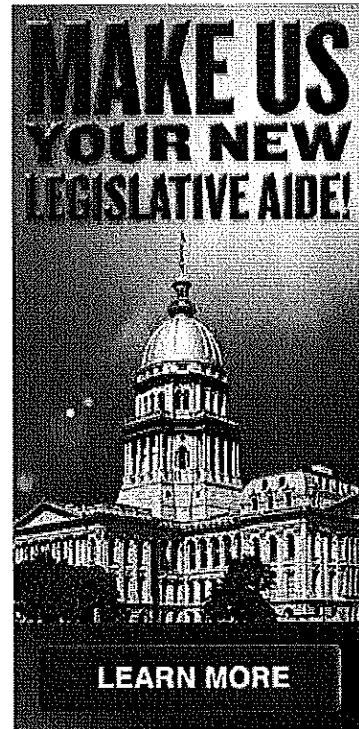
##### Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Draft Comprehensive Study Finds Frac Sand Mining Environmentally Sound

A draft report of a strategic analysis of the mining of industrial silica sand, also called "frac sand," was released in June 2016 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The study found the process used to mine frac sand is safe for the environment and for people. The DNR report also provides "factual information about the industry and typical operations, as well as about air quality, water quality, wetlands, groundwater, wildlife, endangered resources, and socio-economics." In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson argues frac sand mining is not a threat to tourism, scenic beauty, or property values. "The DNR strategic analysis, in a blow to anti-frac-sand groups, found no elevated levels of particulate matter in the air near mining sites," wrote Benson. [Read more](#)

#### **Health Care**

##### Research & Commentary: Massachusetts Is Latest State to Consider Single-Payer Health Care

Massachusetts lawmakers are now considering two bills that would make Massachusetts the first state to institute a statewide single-payer health care system, which would be called MassCare. In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans discusses the many problems that would be created by a single-payer system and warns legislators against moving in that direction. "Single-payer systems face major obstacles that make implementation difficult, if not impossible. MassCare's proponents have greatly underestimated the costs of implementing and maintaining a single-payer health insurance system and the effects it would have on individual patients and the health care market," [Read more](#)



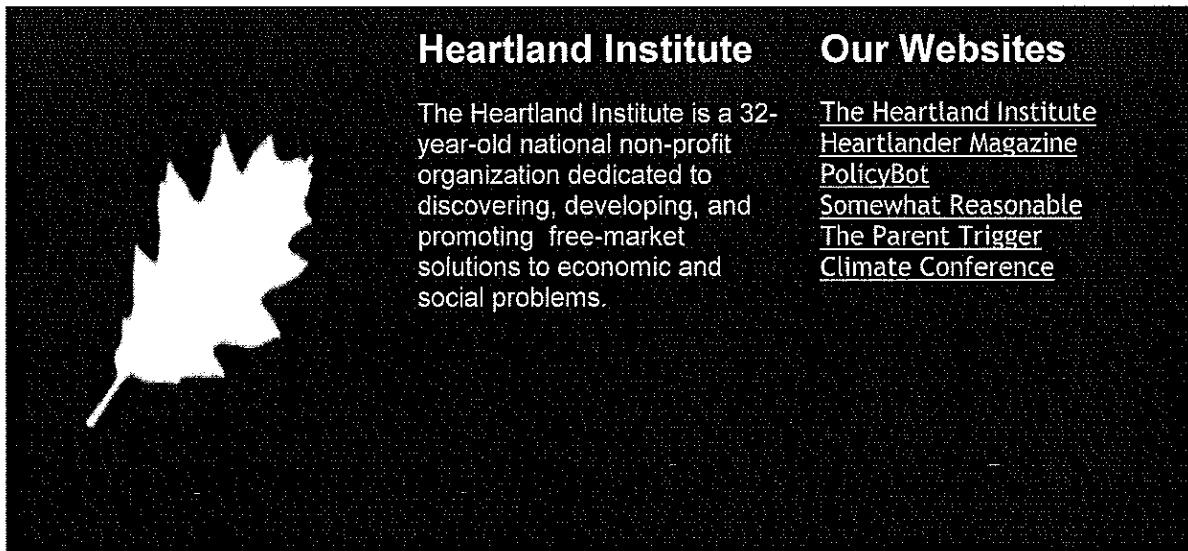
The July issue of *Budget & Tax News* reports Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam signed a measure repealing the state's Hall tax on interest and investment dividends, the state's only tax on an individual's income. The measure phases out the tax over five years. Justin Owen, president of the Beacon Center of Tennessee, expects the repeal to be good for the state's economy, noting,

"We have talked to numerous investors and job creators who have moved out of Tennessee because of the Hall tax. By eliminating it, we hope to bring those Tennesseans home, while also encouraging others to move into our state."

[Environment & Climate News](#)

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### Missed Heartland's Emerging Issues Forum in Chicago? Watch It Online!

On August 9, The Heartland Institute hosted its first 2016 Emerging Issues Forum (EIF). More than 80 state elected officials and policy experts attended the Summer EIF event in Chicago, Illinois.

New Hampshire state Rep. Bill Ohm (R-Hillsborough) praised Heartland's summer EIF event, stating, "The conference offered excellent presentations by qualified speakers on practical solutions to long-term problems."

If you missed Heartland's Summer EIF event, you can watch each of the four panels held during the event online on Heartland's [YouTube channel](#).

The health care panel featured Cato Institute Senior Fellow Michael Tanner, Opternative Chief Executive Officer Aaron Dallek, and Georgia state Sen. Judson Hill (R-Cobb County). The panelists discussed how states can expand competition and reduce the cost of health care - even with the Affordable Care Act in place. The solutions offered include using telemedicine, rolling back certificate of need laws, and embracing direct primary care. The panel also addressed Medicaid expansion. [Video](#)

The education panel featured Goldwater Institute Education Director Jonathan Butcher, Heritage Foundation Fellow Lindsey Burke, and Illinois state Rep. John Anthony (R-Grundy County). The panelists discussed how education outcomes in America continue to lag globally; the ongoing debate about Common Core State Standards; and educational choice options, such as education savings accounts and charter schools. Panelists also analyzed roadblocks to transforming education and explored ways to improve access to a quality education. [Video](#)

[Video](#)

The budget and tax panel featured Joe Henchman, vice president of legal and state projects for the Tax Foundation, National Taxpayers Union Executive Vice President Brandon Arnold, and Heartland Government Relations Director John Nothdurft. The panelists discussed ways states

are seeking to create a better business climate to attract jobs and businesses to their states. The panelists also discussed right-to-work laws, tax reform, and reforming public pension systems and debated which policies are working and which are not. [Video](#)

Stay tuned as Heartland prepares to host its [Winter EIF in Orlando, Florida on December 15-17.](#)

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

### Budget & Tax

#### [Research & Commentary: States Moving Away from Sales Tax Holidays](#)

Since 1980, state and local governments have used sales tax holidays as a popular tool to encourage certain types of consumer activity. Sales tax holidays temporarily exempt or lower state and/or local sales taxes for certain kinds of products. Recently, after years of continued expansions of sales tax holidays amongst the states, the trend has started to reverse. In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines sales tax holidays. Glans says they are a gimmick that benefit only a small number of companies and are used to hide larger, more significant problems with a state's tax code. Despite their popularity with legislators and some consumers, sales tax holidays are not sound tax policy. Tax holidays attempt to mask the wider problems in a sales tax system by giving consumers temporary relief rather than fixing the actual problem." [Read more](#)

### Education

#### [Common Core: A Bad Choice for America \(Second Edition\)](#)

In 2010, every state but Alaska, Nebraska, Texas, and Virginia adopted Common Core education standards, a set of education requirements for the nation's elementary and secondary school children that lay out what every student should know at each grade level in math and English language arts. The initiative represents a dramatic centralization of authority over the nation's historically decentralized K-12 education system. In this second edition of *Common Core: A Bad Choice for America*, Author Joy Pullmann, a research fellow on education policy, says though proponents insist Common Core originated in a "state-led" process, the truth is a group of private trade organizations commissioned a small group of consultants to write Common Core behind closed doors. This elite-driven, closed-doors process created a set of what can accurately be described as mediocre mandates. While proponents say Common Core is 'internationally benchmarked' and 'rigorous,' independent scholars conclude Common Core will



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graduate students prepared at best for a two-year community college. Several states had better standards in place before they adopted Common Core." [Read more](#)

#### Energy & Environment

##### Research & Commentary: Study Says South Texas Fracking Not a Risk to Air Quality

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes how researchers at the University of Texas-Arlington's Collaborative Laboratories for Environmental Analysis and Remediation have conducted a study on ambient emissions at hydraulic fracturing sites in the Eagle Ford shale in Southwest Texas and found the emissions to be within the acceptable federal standard. The study examined ambient benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylene (BTEX) at fracking sites in 13 different counties using over 12,800 mass spectrometry measurements. While these BTEX compounds did register around fracking sites, their concentrations were very small. The authors also found these emissions are not the result of the fracking process itself; they emanate from various onsite activities that were carried out poorly and inefficiently. Benson says the study reinforces the claim drilling is currently being conducted in Texas in a safe and responsible manner, and Benson says there is no scientific justification for banning hydraulic fracturing or over-regulating it out of existence.

[Read more](#)

#### Health Care

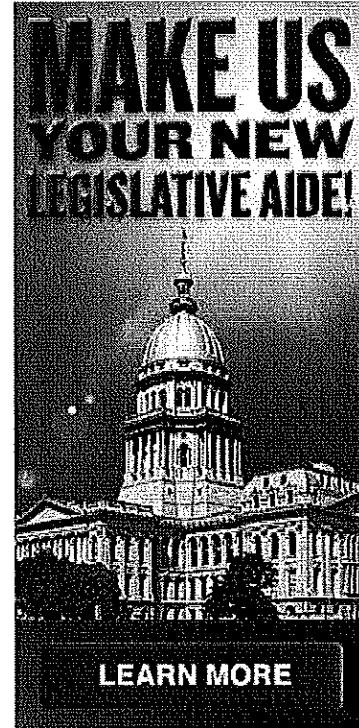
##### Research & Commentary: Florida Should Allow for Dental Therapists

A growing number of states and tribal communities are allowing dentists to employ dental therapists to help meet the growing need for routine dental care. Unfortunately, Florida is one of the many states that has not reformed dental licensing laws to allow for dental therapists. In this *Research & Commentary*, State Government Relations Manager Logan Elizabeth Pike examines dental therapists in the State of Florida and encourages Florida lawmakers to reform their licensing laws in order to allow for them to practice. "The field of dentistry is changing, and states desperately need to reform the care delivery system to address oral-health needs. Regular access to basic check-ups can prevent the majority of painful and costly dental issues." [Read more](#)

#### From Our Free-Market Friends

##### Mackinac Center Event: How Pensions Are Bankrupting Cities and States and How to Fix It

[Register here](#)



#### POLICY NEWSPAPER



The July issue of *Health Care News* reports House Republican leaders plan to release immediately before the Republication National Convention a party-wide plan to repeal and replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare. Caitlin Carroll, communications director for the Republican Study Committee, said "any plan that dismantles Obamacare and moves [the country]

toward patient-centered reform should be considered as part of the House's ongoing discussion of what a conservative health care reform plan should look like."

**Budget & Tax News**

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**From:** Heartland Institute: John Nothdurft  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** The Leaflet - The Future of Nuclear Energy



## The Future of Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Energy Institute President and CEO Marvin Fertel said in a recent interview the administration of President-elect Donald Trump will be “much more positive than negative” for the nuclear industry. Fertel went on to cite Trump’s decision to tap Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) as the country’s next attorney general, a man he says “has always been a very big supporter of nuclear energy.”

Nuclear power is America’s largest source of clean-air, carbon-dioxide-free electricity. It produces few, if any, air pollutants or greenhouse-gas emissions. Nuclear power can produce a vast amount of power from a tiny volume of fuel and requires less land than other so-called “green-energy sources,” such as wind. An average nuclear power plant occupies about one-third of 1 square mile, whereas a wind farm must use up to 200 square miles of land to generate the same amount of power. The nuclear energy industry also has a proven track record of safety.

Scientist James Conca argued in a recent *Forbes* article 2016 was an active year for the nuclear power industry in the United States and internationally. “Currently, there are 450 nuclear power reactors in operation globally, 98 in the United States ... Sixty new plants are under construction, five in the United States.”

However, Conca argues nuclear power faces a difficult battle, because even at a low cost of 5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), “They cannot compete with cheap natural gas and wind energy that is subsidized at 2.3¢/kWh. Solar is even more heavily subsidized, usually over 10¢/kWh, but up to 54¢/kWh in some states like Washington.”

Michael Shellenberger, the founder and president of Environmental Progress, argues in a recent *USA Today* article nuclear energy’s recent problems (in certain parts of the country) are not because nuclear power is uneconomical. Shellenberger says the issue is they are punished by discriminatory policies that treat one zero-carbon energy option more favorably than another. “In 2013, solar received 281 times more in subsidies per unit of electricity than nuclear, while wind received 17 times more, according to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration. As a result of this perverse incentive, some nuclear plants that produce power at costs lower than the wind subsidy could be forced to close.”

Although governments have unfairly favored renewable energy, they shouldn't make the same mistake with nuclear power by doling out subsidies or mandating the use of nuclear energy. They should instead lift the undue regulations currently placed on the nuclear power industry. This would lead to an expansion of nuclear energy in the United States, which would be beneficial to the environment, economy, and to the stability of the U.S. power grid.

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

### Budget & Tax

#### Federal Lawmakers Compile Wish List for Regulatory Rollback

Ben Johnson writes for *Budget & Tax News* congressional Republicans are preparing a wish list for repealing federal regulations they hope President-elect Donald Trump will use when he takes office on January 20. U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) told reporters in December he is sending Trump a 21-page report detailing federal regulations requiring executive action to be rolled back or reviewed. The report lists 232 federal regulations. One suggested repeal is of a U.S. Department of Labor regulation known as the "overtime rule," which requires business owners to pay all salaried employees receiving less than \$47,476 annually higher wages for time worked above 40 hours per week. [Read more](#)

### Education

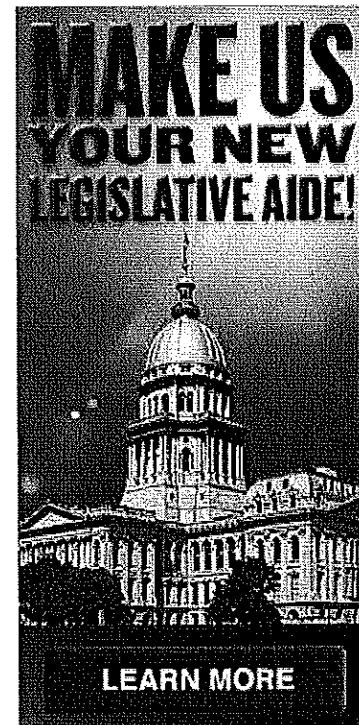
#### Religious Education Has Benefits Secular Ed Lacks

In this article for *School Reform News*, writer Ashley Bateman highlights a new study from researchers at Rice University and the University of Arkansas titled *Losing My Religion? The Impact of Spiritual Cues on Noncognitive Skills*. The study suggests having students think about religion increases their political tolerance and ability to delay gratification. The researchers randomly assigned 180 secondary students at a public boarding school to an experimental task with religious, secularized, or neutral cues. "Since students were randomly assigned to this religious cue treatment, regardless of personal religious beliefs or family background, our findings suggest that the benefits that religiously educated students experience can likely be attributed in some part to these religious schools," one of the study's authors told Bateman. [Read more](#)

### Energy & Environment

#### Research & Commentary: Nationwide Study Finds Communities Benefit from Fracking

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson discusses a new National Bureau of Economic Research study that finds fracking has brought \$64 billion in yearly household benefits to nine shale basins. These benefits include a "a 7



percent increase in average income, driven by rises in wages and royalty payments, a 10 percent increase in employment, and a 6 percent increase in housing prices.” The study, conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago, Princeton University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the first nationwide study of its kind and “the most comprehensive assessment to date,” according to the authors. [Read more](#)



### Health Care

#### Largest Montana Health Insurer Raises ACA Premiums by 55 Percent

In this article for *Health Care News*, writer Michael McGrady reports the three companies offering individual health insurance plans on Montana’s Obamacare exchange are charging between 31 percent and 55 percent more, on average, for individual insurance plans in 2017 than they did in 2016. For individual plans, the Montana Health Cooperative has increased 2017 premiums by an average of 31 percent and PacificSource has raised premiums by an average of 33 percent, *HealthInsurance.org* reported in October. Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the state’s largest insurer, increased 2017 premiums for individual plans by an average of 55 percent, a slight reduction from the 58 percent average increase the company announced in August 2016. Montana’s average premium increase for individual plans in 2017 exceeds the 25 percent national average premium increase for the “Silver Plan” offered on the Obamacare exchanges, the benchmark plan the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses to track insurance prices. [Read more](#)

### From Our Free-Market Friends

#### Mackinac Center for Public Policy Releases New Study: High Cigarette Taxes Lead to More Smuggling

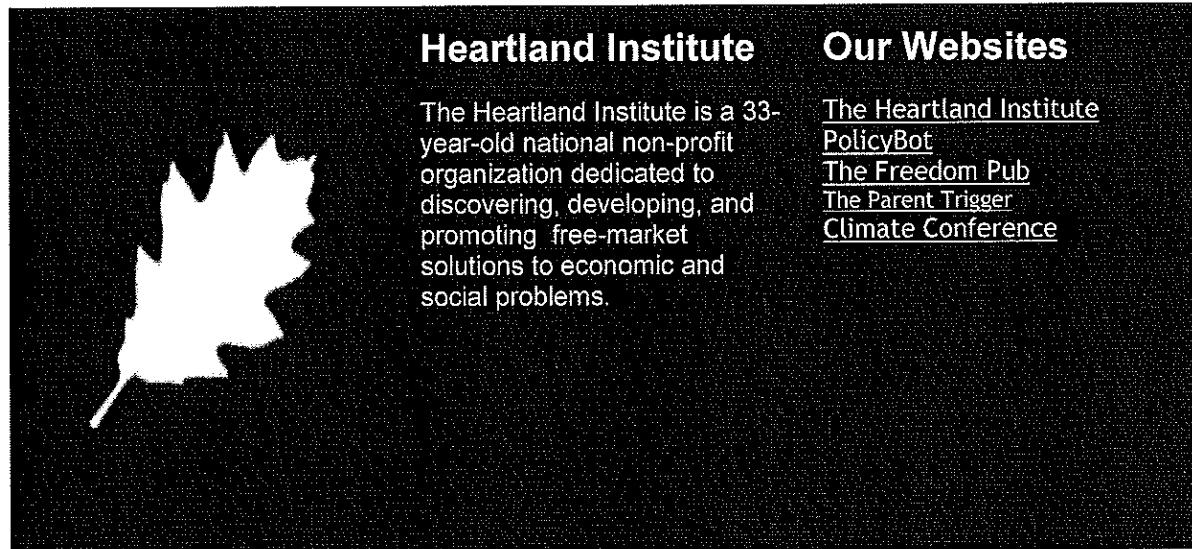
A new study by researchers at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Tax Foundation has found state cigarette excise tax rates continue to encourage tax evasion and avoidance around the country. The study updates previous research by the authors that examined the degree to which cigarettes are smuggled across state borders within the United States, among other unintended consequences. The study finds New York State continues to boast the highest smuggling rate, with 55 percent of cigarettes being consumed there smuggled in from other states. With a \$4.35-per-pack tax, New York has the highest state cigarette taxes (New York City imposes an additional \$1.50-per-pack levy.) Arizona, New Mexico, Washington State, and Minnesota follow New York on the list of states with the highest cigarette excise taxes. [Read more](#)

The January 2017 issue of *Budget & Tax News* reports on the election of Donald Trump, Republicans’ continued control of both houses of Congress ... and what it all might mean for downsizing the federal government. Genevieve Wood, a senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation, gave taxpayers reason for hope: “I think you can expect to see bold reforms, and by that, I mean a real shrinking back and pulling back of the federal government’s power when it comes to taxes, regulations, [and] telling people how to live their everyday lives.”

#### Health Care News

#### Environment & Climate News

#### School Reform News



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**From:** Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team  
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**Subject:** The Leaflet - Kentucky Hits the Ground Running, Becomes 27th Right-to-Work State



## Kentucky Hits the Ground Running, Becomes 27th Right-to-Work State

On January 7, Kentucky became the nation's 27th state to pass right-to-work legislation. Implemented in 1947, the Taft-Hartley Act (THA) allows states to adopt right-to-work laws. Right-to-work gives employees the freedom to choose whether to join a labor union and pay union dues.

According to the [National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation](#), "A Right to Work law secures the right of employees to decide for themselves whether or not to join or financially support a union. However, employees who work in the railway or airline industries are not protected by a Right to Work law, and employees who work on a federal enclave may not be. Moreover, a Right to Work law does not prohibit limitations on when a dues deduction authorization card can be revoked." 0

Kentucky has one of the highest union membership rates in the South, and many analysts believe that is because it is one of only a few states in the region without a right-to-work law.

Bill McMorris, a staff writer for the *Washington Free Beacon*, wrote [in a recent article](#), "About 200,000 Kentucky workers were dues-paying union members in 2015, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Union membership has grown in recent years, with a membership rate of 11 percent of the workforce—a 28 percent increase from 2009."

According to the [Bluegrass Institute](#), in the first week of the 2017 legislative session, the Kentucky Legislature passed and Gov. Matt Bevin (R) signed laws addressing the following issues:

- Kentucky became a right-to-work state. No longer are Kentuckians forced to join a union as a condition of employment.
- Kentucky made legislators' pensions transparent.

- Kentucky repealed the arbitrary and artificial “prevailing-wage” requirements on public projects, saving taxpayers millions of dollars on new schools and government buildings.
- Kentucky prohibited union dues from being used to fund politics.
- And Kentucky determined that union membership should come with an “opt-in” requirement, not just a *de facto* “yes” that one must later opt out of.

F. Vincent Vernuccio, the Mackinac Center’s director of labor policy, pointed out in a recent *Wall Street Journal* article voters in right-to-work states have rewarded lawmakers who supported the change, writing, “[T]he union’s bark is a lot worse than its bite when it comes to the election afterward.”

Vernuccio also suggested Kentucky could be the first of several states to pass right-to-work legislation in 2017. “We may see up to 29 [states] before the spring. You’re definitely seeing a snowball effect, and more and more states are looking to give workers freedom.”

States that do not have right-to-work policies should consider implementing them. As the experience of other states shows, right-to-work legislation has a positive effect on states’ economies, workers, and population growth.

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

### Budget & Tax

#### Roadmap for the 21st Century: Welfare Reform

This paper, authored by the Roadmap for the 21st Century Working Group on Poverty and Welfare Reform, describes the “perverse incentives stemming from our outdated, fossilized welfare system” and shows how those incentives can be reversed. The paper summarizes the reform proposals offered by House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), and it reveals a new plan that would make the Ryan and Rubio proposals even more effective. The plan described by the Working Group authors would maintain the necessary social safety net while also making it more effective and less economically burdensome on taxpayers. [Read more](#)



### Education

#### Research & Commentary: Cuomo’s ‘Free’ Tuition Plan Won’t Help Poor Students or Reduce College Costs

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson examines New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s (D) plan to provide “free” tuition at all Empire State public colleges and universities for students whose families are earning up to \$125,000 per year. Because lower-income students already qualify for enough aid to pay for tuition at New York state universities, most of the students who will be helped by this bill will be from middle- and upper-middle-income households,

which means New York's lower- and middle-income families will be paying taxes to subsidize the higher education of children belonging to their affluent and upper-middle-income neighbors. Instead of instituting what would amount to a welfare program for upper-middle-income households, Benson argues, New York would be better off directing this money to school choice programs for low-income K-12 students stuck in poorly performing neighborhood public schools, such as tax credit scholarship programs and education savings account plans. [Read more](#)

#### Energy & Environment

##### [Purdue Researchers Find GMO Ban Would Result in Higher Food Prices and Greenhouse-Gas Emissions](#)

In this story published in *Environment & Climate News*, Managing Editor H. Sterling Burnett writes about a new study in the *Journal of Environmental Protection*. Authored by researchers at Purdue University, the study claims a global ban on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) would result in higher carbon-dioxide emissions and cost billions of dollars in lost welfare. Absent the use of GMO crops, the study finds food prices would be between 0.27 percent and 2.2 percent higher, depending on the region. The study also argues if countries that currently plant GMO crops increase the amount of GMOs they plant to levels comparable to that of the United States, greenhouse-gas emissions would fall by approximately 0.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide globally and up to two million acres of land would revert to forests, grasslands, and wetlands. [Read more](#)

#### Health Care

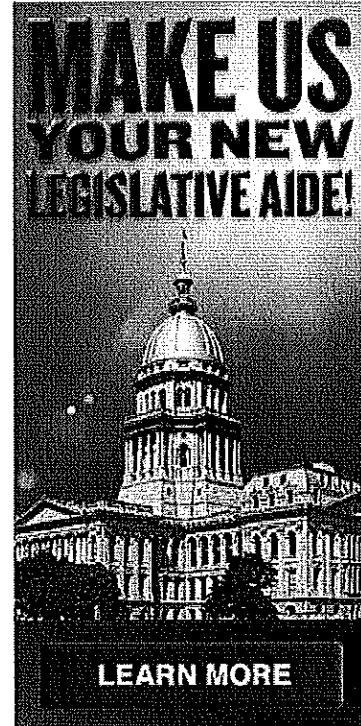
##### [Study: Two-Thirds of Medicaid Expansion Enrollees Were Already Eligible](#)

In this *Health Care News* article, reporter Ben Johnson discusses a *New England Journal of Medicine* article coauthored Jonathan Gruber, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor and one of the architects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The *New England Journal* article, published in October 2016, found most enrollees in state Medicaid expansion programs were eligible for the government-sponsored health insurance program before the ACA-created expansion went into effect. This means federal taxpayers are paying a higher share of states' Medicaid bills than they should. [Read more](#)

#### From Our Free-Market Friends

##### [Laboratories of Democracy: How States Get Excellent K-12 U.S. History Standards](#)

Pioneer Education, a center focusing on education reform at



#### POLICY NEWSPAPER



The January 2017 issue of *Budget & Tax News* reports on the election of Donald Trump, Republicans' continued control of both houses of Congress ... and what it all might mean for downsizing the federal government. Genevieve Wood, a senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation, gave taxpayers reason for hope: "I think you can expect to see

The Pioneer Institute, recently released a study that highlights best practices for establishing and updating K-12 history standards. Authors Anders Lewis and William Donovan recommend states use an academically rigorous and open approach to update standards that would provide members of the public and teachers with multiple opportunities to express their views throughout the drafting and review phases of standards development. The co-authors also suggest the development of standards that are academically detailed and specific. The study highlights efforts to update well-respected history standards in six states: Alabama, California, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, and South Carolina. For instance, the study points to California's recent standards update in 2016, which, according to the authors, yielded standards that have been poorly received compared to past standards implemented in California and elsewhere. The authors also say the standards in California have drawn accusations of partisanship and ideological bias. [Read more](#)

bold reforms, and by that, I mean a real shrinking back and pulling back of the federal government's power when it comes to taxes, regulations, [and] telling people how to live their everyday lives."

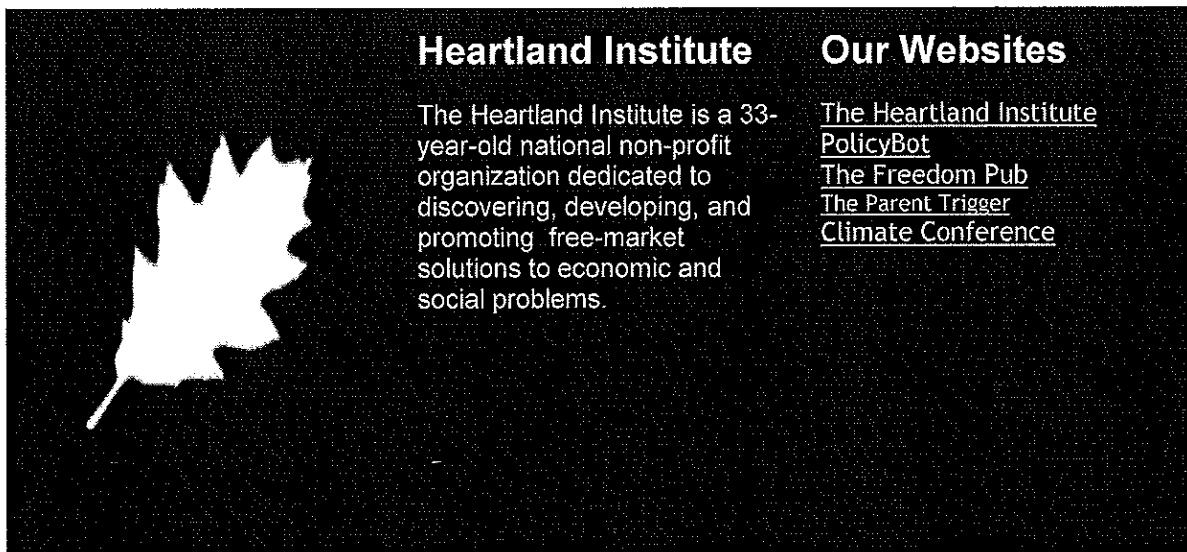
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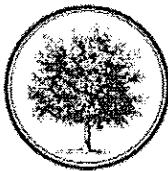
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## THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Below please find **The Buckeye Institute's** latest policy brief: *Increasing the Cigarette Tax Will Send Ohio's Budget Up in Smoke* ([download PDF](#)). Authored by Lukas Spitzwieser, the piece looks at the impact increasing taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products will have on Ohio's economy and state revenues.

Buckeye's research found that:

- Raising taxes on cigarettes will lead to higher rates of smuggling and smuggling-related crime.
- Many retail businesses - including grocery stores and gas stations - in Ohio's border counties will suffer a decline in sales as more Ohioans cross into neighboring states to buy tobacco products along with their groceries.
- Although raising cigarette taxes may reduce smoking, some of the expected health benefits may prove overstated, and by extending the tax to vapor products the proposal will actually reduce incentives for current smokers to switch to less-harmful e-cigarettes.

- Tobacco tax hikes violate basic principles of a sound tax policy by unevenly burdening a declining tax base and disproportionately harming the poorest in our communities.

In conclusion Spitzwieser said, "Rather than raising regressive taxes paid disproportionately by Ohio's poor, policymakers should confront budget shortfalls by looking for ways to spur economic growth and reduce government spending."

If you have questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Lisa Gates at 614-224-3255 or [lisa@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:lisa@buckeyeinstitute.org).

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## **The Buckeye Institute Policy Brief**

### **Increasing the Cigarette Tax Will Send Ohio's Budget Up in Smoke**

**By Lukas Spitzwieser**

In his latest executive budget, Governor Kasich has again proposed raising Ohio's tax rates on tobacco products from \$1.60 to \$2.25 per pack. Mr. Kasich's budget also proposes raising the tax rate on other tobacco products (OTP) from 17% to 69% of the wholesale price, and extending the OTP tax to include vapor products such as e-cigarettes.

Despite generating additional revenues for the state, the Governor's proposed tax increases will likely do more harm than good for Ohio. First, raising taxes on cigarettes will lead to higher rates of smuggling and smuggling-related crime. Second, many retail businesses - including grocery stores and gas stations - in Ohio's border counties will suffer a decline in sales as more Ohioans cross into neighboring states to buy tobacco products along with their groceries. Third, although raising cigarette taxes may reduce smoking, some of the expected health benefits may prove overstated, and by extending the OTP tax to vapor products the Governor's proposal will actually reduce incentives for current smokers to switch to less-harmful e-cigarettes. Finally, tobacco tax hikes violate basic principles of a sound tax policy by unevenly burdening a declining tax base and disproportionately harming the poorest in our communities.

Ohio collected more than \$1bn in tobacco taxes from smokers in FY2016, accounting for roughly 3% of the state's General Revenue Fund. But increasing the state tax rate on cigarettes creates greater price differences relative to low tobacco tax states like Kentucky (currently taxing cigarettes at 60 cents per pack). Smokers, like other consumers, will take

steps to avoid paying higher taxes, especially when tax rates rise dramatically or are considerably higher than nearby states. On a small scale, for example, consumers will engage in "casual smuggling" and cross state lines to buy their cigarettes in lower-tax states. On a much larger scale, criminal organizations routinely engage in "commercial smuggling" and ship large quantities of cigarettes from low-tax states to high-tax states and then sell contraband cigarettes at a discount to the high-tax price.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy estimates that roughly 7.7% of cigarettes consumed in Ohio in 2014 were smuggled in by commercial smugglers. And in 2014, Ohio still taxed cigarettes at only \$1.25 per pack, well below the current \$1.60 per pack or the proposed \$2.25 per pack. More recent data has not yet been published, but it is reasonable to expect that higher taxes will lead to even higher rates of both casual and commercial smuggling. New York, for instance, has the highest per-pack taxes (\$4.35 with an additional \$1.50 for New York City) and it leads the nation in smuggled cigarettes, with approximately 55% of the Empire State's cigarettes smuggled illicitly in 2014.[1]

Among Ohio's neighbors, only Michigan and Pennsylvania currently levy higher taxes on tobacco consumers than the Buckeye State, and raising the cigarette and OTP taxes further would leave even Michigan in our wake. (See Table 1.) Raising tobacco taxes will increase the profit and savings incentives for the commercial and casual smugglers. And because consumers - the "casual smugglers" - often buy cigarettes in the course of shopping for groceries and other sundry products, one might expect that those other purchases soon will be made across the border, too. As tobacco users take their business into Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, Ohio's retailers along border counties inevitably will suffer.

**Table 1:** Tobacco Taxes in Ohio's Neighboring States

	Cigarettes	OTP
Ohio	160 cents	17%
Ohio (proposed increase)	225 cents	69%
Indiana	99.5 cents	24%
Kentucky	60 cents	= A 15%
Michigan	200 cents	32%
Pennsylvania	260 cents	None
West Virginia	120 cents	12%

Source: States' budget offices.

Note: Tax on cigarettes per pack of 20 cigarettes, OTP as percent of wholesale price. Data as of May 1, 2017.

Many presume that raising taxes on tobacco products will reduce smoking in Ohio and therefore have positive public health effects in addition to generating more state revenues. Smoking and tobacco consumption are unhealthy. The net public health benefits attributable to higher priced tobacco, however, are much less clear. Although some tobacco users will "kick the habit" or reduce their tobacco use due to higher prices, others will not. And of those who continue to smoke despite the higher price, some will smoke in unhealthier ways even as they consume fewer cigarettes. Researchers Jérôme Adda and Francesca Cornaglio (2013) have shown, for example, that smokers will extract more nicotine per cigarette in order to compensate for tobacco tax hikes. By consuming each cigarette more intensely or by smoking cigarettes as close to the filter as possible, the harmful effects of cigarettes actually rise rather than fall. Tax hikes also affect smokers' choice of cigarettes, prompting some to switch to cheaper brands that often have higher tar and nicotine levels.[2]

Higher tobacco taxes may encourage some smokers to switch to e-cigarettes or other vapor products that are generally believed to be less harmful than tobacco smoking. Public Health England, for example, concluded that "vaping" e-cigarettes is 95% safer than traditional smoking.[3] Because e-cigarettes do not contain nicotine or tar they offer smokers a less addictive and less carcinogenic alternative. Indeed, toxicants are 9-450 times lower in e-cigarettes than in regular cigarettes.[4] As many smokers try to quit smoking they require a temporary, less addictive substitute. For some, e-cigarettes are an effective aid on the road to a smoke-free life.[5] Unfortunately, by extending the new OTP tax rate of 69% (on wholesale prices) to vapor products, Governor Kasich's recommendation negates the potential savings incentive for traditional smokers to switch to less harmful e-cigarettes. Thus, the state is unlikely to reap the full public health benefits that might be realized if more smokers had a financial incentive to wean themselves from nicotine on e-cigarettes.

Finally, sound, sustainable tax policies distribute the tax burden evenly across a constant tax base.[6] Tobacco taxes violate this principle. Smoking prevalence and per-capita cigarette sales have declined across the nation for decades, and from 1970 to 2014 per-capita cigarette sales in Ohio have fallen from 122 to 53 packs per year.[7] In light of such trends, Ohio's Office of Budget and Management assumes that even without a tax increase tobacco sales will continue to decline by 2.5% annually.[8] Under the proposed tax increase, however, the average price per pack of cigarettes will rise by 10%, which means that cigarette sales will decline by 4%, assuming a price elasticity of -0.4 as economist Frank Chaloupka estimates.[9]

These declining consumption trend lines make tobacco taxes unsustainable. Moreover, higher tobacco taxes affect low-income Ohioans disproportionately insofar as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that smoking is twice as prevalent among adults below the poverty line (26.1%) as it is for those above the poverty line (13.9%).[10] Thus, tobacco taxes are regressive and burden the poorest in our communities the most-another violation of sound tax policy.

## Conclusion

Despite laudable intentions to boost revenues and enhance public health, raising and expanding Ohio's tobacco taxes will not help Ohioans. State policymakers should reconsider the Governor's proposal. With tobacco taxes already higher than most of Ohio's neighbors, a new tax hike spiking the price of cigarettes will likely encourage more casual and commercial smuggling to the detriment of our communities and local businesses. The potential public health benefits of higher tobacco prices remain debatable at best, and raising taxes on e-cigarettes and other tobacco alternatives only reduces the likelihood of reaping those elusive net benefits. Rather than raising regressive taxes paid disproportionately by Ohio's poor, policymakers should confront budget shortfalls by looking for ways to spur economic growth and reduce government spending.

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- [1] LaFaive M., Nesbit T., & Drenkard S. (2016). *Cigarette Taxes and Smuggling: A 2016 Update*. Mackinac Center for Public Policy.
- [2] Adda, J., & Cornaglia, F. (2013). *Taxes, cigarette consumption, and smoking intensity: reply*. *The American Economic Review*, 103(7), 3102-3114.
- [3] McNeill A., Brose L.S., Calder R., & Hitchman S.C. (2015). *E-cigarettes: an evidence update*. A report commissioned by Public Health England.
- [4] Goniewicz M.L., Knysak J., Gawron M., et al. (2013). *Levels of selected carcinogens and toxicants in vapor from electronic cigarettes*. *Tob Control* 2013;0:1-7.
- [5] Bullen, C., Howe, C., Laugesen, M., McRobbie, H., Parag, V., Williman, J., & Walker, N. (2013). *Electronic cigarettes for smoking cessation: a randomised controlled trial*. *The Lancet*, 382(9905), 1629-1637.
- [6] Rea S. Hederman Jr, Tom Lampan, Greg R. Lawson and Joe Nichols, **Tax Reform Principles for Ohio**, February 2, 2015.
- [7] Orzechowski & Walker (2014). *The Tax Burden on Tobacco: Historical Compilation*. 49.
- [8] Ohio Office of Budget and Management (2017). *Budget Recommendations. The State of Ohio Executive Budget*. Fiscal Years 2018-2019.
- [9] The price elasticity measures how consumers respond to price changes in one variable. In this case, if the price of cigarettes increase the elasticity measures how many fewer cigarettes are bought due to the price change.

Chaloupka, F. & Huang, J. (2015). *A significant cigarette tax rate increase in Ohio would produce*

a large, sustained increase in state tobacco tax revenues. Prepared for Tobacconomics. Institute for Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago.

[10] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). **Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults-United States, 2005-2015.** Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, 65(44): 1205-1211.

# # #

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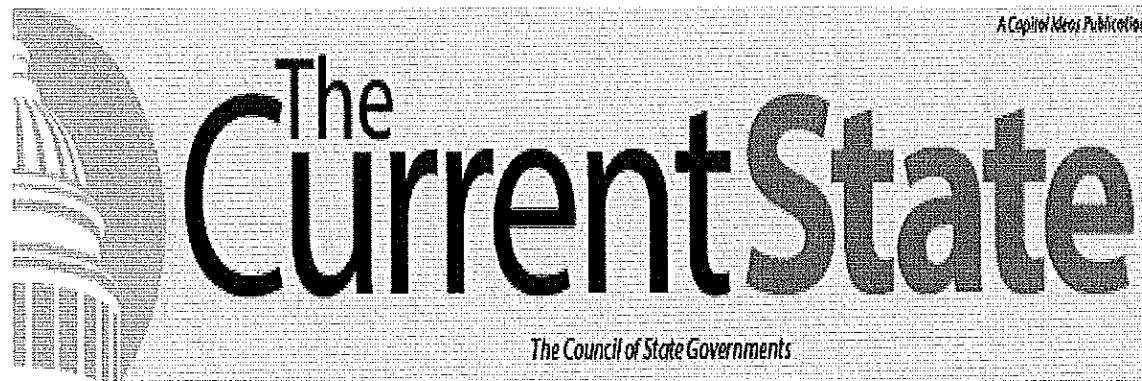
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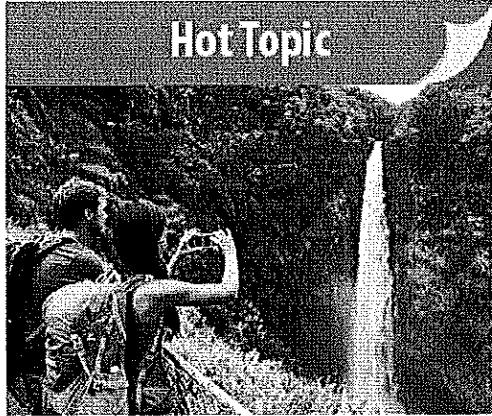
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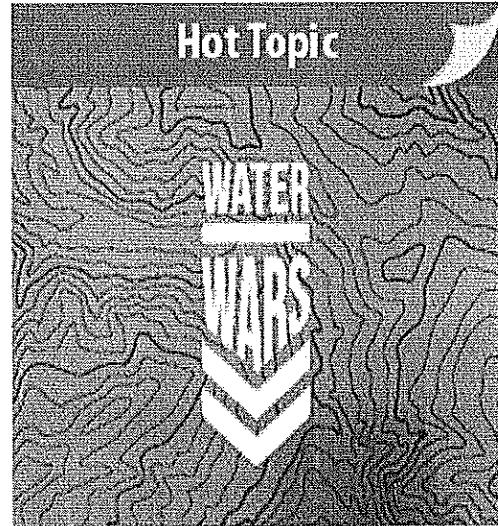
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Issue: 108

June 19, 2017



## Hot Topic



## Hot Topic

### New Research Questions Tourism Promotion Programs' Return on Investment

While tourism is clearly beneficial to state and local economies, it is less clear whether public tourism promotional programs are meeting their goal of increasing tourism. To investigate whether public tourism promotion programs get a reasonable return on investment, Michael LaFaive, director of the Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, collected 39 years' worth of data.

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### = A Water Wars

Conflicts over water are as old as civilization itself. The Pacific Institute, a global water think tank based in California, maintains an online water conflict chronology that catalogs disputes going back 5,000 years. So it should be no surprise that in a nation of independent states, many of which share borders that cut across or are defined by water, interstate water conflicts feature prominently in the history of the states.

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## Update from DC

## CSG Academy



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**Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposes Changes to SNAP**

On May 23, 2017, President Donald Trump released his first full budget proposal, titled A New Foundation for American Greatness. The proposal outlines deep cuts to many domestic programs, including \$191 billion in reduced federal spending for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, over the next decade.

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**Transportation Innovations Likely to Transform Insurance Markets, Provide Policy Challenges**

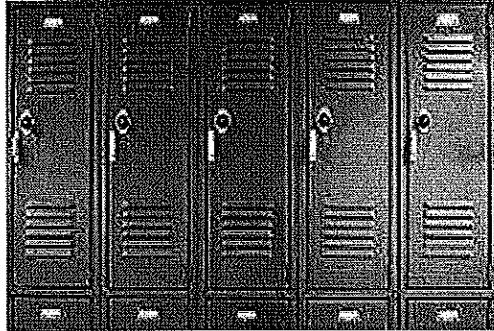
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In a recent CSG eCademy webinar titled, Innovations in the Automobile Industry and Their Implications for Insurance, a panel of experts discussed three disruptive transportation-related innovations that are likely to dramatically reshape insurance markets and provide unique challenges for policymakers in the decades ahead.

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**By the Book**

**Capitol Comments**



## New York, Alaska Spend the Most Per Student on K-12

According to new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, per student spending on public elementary and secondary school systems increased for every state in 2015, except for Arizona where spending decreased by 0.5 percent. Alaska and California lead the pack, with both increasing spending by more than nine percent.

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## States Receive Report Card on Early Childhood Education Programs

According to a report released by the National Institute for Early Education Research, states on average are growing in terms of access and spending for preschool. For the 2015-2016 school year, state funding rose by \$564 million, with much of this increase concentrated in California and Texas.

[READ MORE](#)



## Kentucky Adopts Framework from CSG, NCSL Task Force

Last week Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin announced the Kentucky Work Matters Task Force as an outgrowth to a report released last year from the National Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities.

## Conferences & Events

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### Apprenticeships: A Successful Workforce and Business Development Strategy

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Tuesday, July 18, 2 p.m. EDT

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### SCOTUS Mid-Term Update: Waters of the United States Rule

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Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2 p.m. EDT

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The national taskforce is a partnership between The Council of State Governments and the National Conference of State Legislators. The report provided a framework for states on workforce development for people with disabilities. Kentucky is the first state to adopt this framework.

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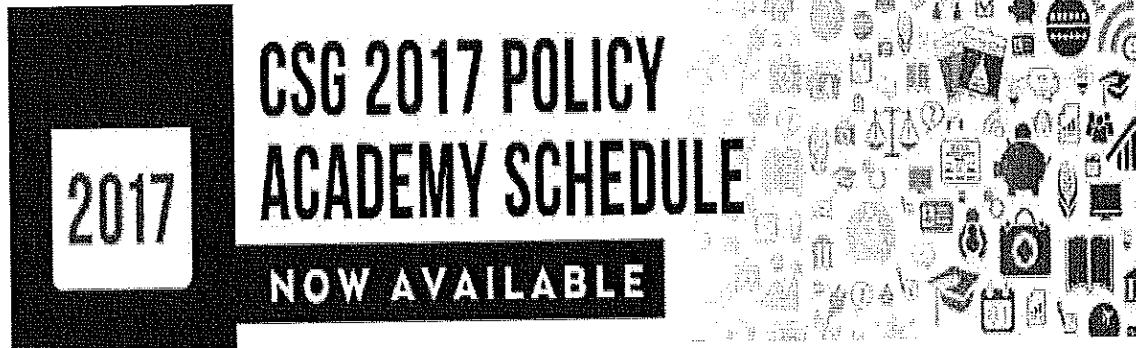
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Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments is our nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. This offers unparalleled regional, national and international opportunities to network, develop leaders, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships.



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# House Republicans

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**News from Congress for State Leaders**

*"The federal government did not create the states; the states created the federal government."* -  
President Ronald Reagan

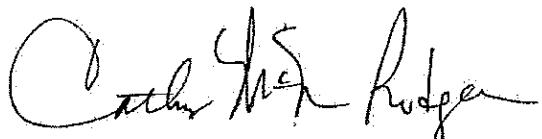
**A note from GOP Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers:**

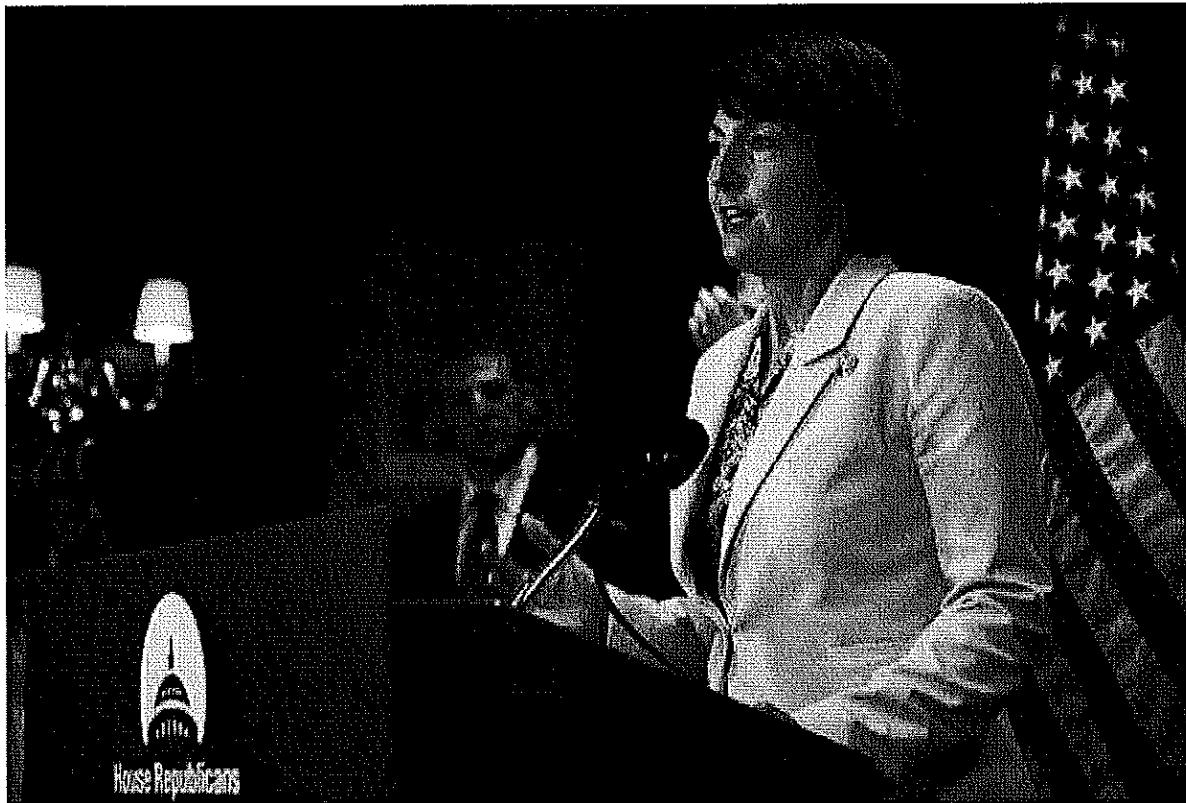
Welcome to our new eNewsletter, a resource to better connect you, state leaders, with what we are doing here in the People's House.

I've always believed that the ideas to fix our most pressing policy problems will be found in the states, not in Washington, D.C. I was a state legislator in Washington state during the welfare reform of the '90s. A shared belief that drove welfare reform then and is now driving how we approach big agenda items like health care reform is this: States, not the federal government, know how to best address the needs of the people they serve.

I look forward to working with state leaders on healthcare, tax reform, infrastructure, welfare reform, and more in the coming years. We have a historic opportunity in front of us with majorities in the state houses, governor's offices, the House and Senate, and White House.

Let's bring success stories from the states to the nation's capital and restore the proper balance of power between states and the federal government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy McMorris Rodgers".



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## FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

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### House GOP Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

The House Budget Committee passed the FY18 House Republican Budget out of committee last week. The FY18 Budget could be the likely reconciliation vehicle for tax reform, and it also details the Republican policy vision.

**Summary:** "Building a Better America" balances the budget within 10 years by cutting spending, reforming government, and growing the economy. The budget produces a \$9 billion surplus in fiscal year 2027.

The budget achieves \$6.5 trillion in total deficit reduction over 10 years.

This budget sets overall discretionary spending for fiscal year 2018 at \$1.132 trillion.

- \$621.5 billion in defense discretionary spending.
- \$511 billion in non-defense discretionary spending.

**Federalism-- Restore the Balance of Power:** The resolution encourages the innovation and creativity of State and local governments. It calls for returning significant authority to the States, which possess not only the ability but also the will to reform and modernize programs that serve their citizens.

#### **State Flexibility in Healthcare:**

- "Per capita cap" reforms put Medicaid on a budget, while providing states the freedom and flexibility to design their Medicaid programs in a way that best meets the unique needs of their citizens.
- Provides an optional waiver for Obamacare regulations. This provision gives states the option of requesting a waiver from certain Obamacare regulations to reduce costs and increase coverage options.

#### **Welfare Reform:**

- Strengthens welfare work requirements.

- Promotes state flexibility with SNAP to tailor programs to the state's needs.
- Enforces SNAP work requirements.

## **Education and Workforce Development**

- Reinforces recently enacted legislation, the "Every Student Succeeds Act," which intends to scale back Federal overreach into local education decisions. It consolidates or eliminates 49 duplicative, restrictive, or poor-performing programs, in favor of one grant program.
- Reforms workforce development programs. Our budget calls for further consolidation of duplicative Federal workforce development programs and improved coordination with the reformed workforce development system. In tandem with these efforts, it also supports efforts to ensure career and technical education programs empower state and local leaders in educating students for high-demand, high-skill jobs.

## **Environmental Regulation:**

- Reduces and refocuses Environmental Protection Agency funding. The EPA continues to use its budget to implement its unprecedented activist regulatory policy, to the detriment of states, localities, small businesses, and energy consumers. The budget reduces annual funding levels for the EPA to allow the agency to focus on its core mission of enforcing laws passed by Congress rather than attempting to re-write them through regulations.
- Eliminates the EPA Office of Regulatory Policy and Management. This office provides support and guidance for the EPA's national and regional offices in developing regulations. According to the EPA website, a primary function of this office is to = 2manage the Agency's policy priority agenda." As an executive agency created merely to enforce congressional statutes, the EPA should have no policy priority agenda at all.
- Streamlines Climate Change research across government. This budget resolution reduces spending for numerous climate-change-related activities and research, primarily by reducing

overlapping or unproductive policies. It also recommends better coordination of programs and funds to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary spending. Many of these programs receive funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] as well as the EPA.

**Promoting Job Creation:** Provides reconciliation instructions for fundamental tax reform that will lower rates, simplify the code, and incentivize employers to hire and grow.

Calls for major reform of regulations that hold back job creation and innovation.

**Cutting Spending and Reforming Government:** This budget gives reconciliation instructions to 11 House committees to achieve at least \$203 billion in mandatory savings and reforms.

This budget also aims to reduce government-wide improper payments by \$700 billion.

[Read BalancedBudget.gop](http://ReadBalancedBudget.gop)

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE UPDATE

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### **Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs Holds First Hearing**

#### WATCH the Task Force's First Hearing

In May, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced the creation of the Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs, a bipartisan group of lawmakers focused on

balancing the interests between federal, state, and local governments. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) has been appointed Chairman of the Task Force.

On June 22, 2017, the newly formed Task Force held its inaugural hearing: ***Local Perspectives: Examining the Current State of Intergovernmental Relations***. Hearing witnesses were National Governors Association CEO & Executive Director Scott Pattison, National Association of Counties President & Leon County, FL, Commissioner Bryan Desloge, and the Council of State Governments - Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris.

**Task Force Mission:**

1. Partner with states, tribes, and local governments to balance the interests of governments
2. Provide a forum for states, cities, and counties to showcase their innovation and creativity in solving public policy problems
3. Examine the effects of federal rules and regulations on state and local partners
4. Develop proposals to partner with and empower states, tribes, local governments, private institutions, families and individuals
5. Examine the extent to which the burdens shared among states, tribes and local governments may be re-allocated to improve the quality of life in all communities

**Membership:**

CHAIRMAN: Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

REPUBLICANS:

Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL)  
Rep. Luke Messer (R-IN)  
Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC)  
Rep. John Culberson (R-TX)  
Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY)  
Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR)

**DEMOCRATS:**

Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)  
Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)  
Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)  
Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA)  
Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD)  
Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL)

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National Association of Counties  
National Governors Association  
Council of State Governments  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
National League of Cities  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
International City/County Management Association  
National Congress of American Indians  
Western Governors' Association  
National Association of State Treasurers

[Watch the Hearing](#)

## STATE BRIGHT SPOTS

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### **States Look to Healthcare Waivers:**

States are not waiting for the federal government to fix all of the problems with the failing health insurance markets in their states and are instead forging ahead with 1115 Medicaid waivers and 1332 state innovation waivers.

Indiana is seeking an 1115 Medicaid waiver for reforms to its Healthy Indiana 2.0 plan. The waiver request now includes a work requirement for able-bodied adult beneficiaries.

HHS Secretary Tom Price and the Trump administration approved the first 1332 state innovation waiver to allow Alaska to create a program that will cover claims in the individual insurance market for people who have one or more of 33 "high cost conditions." (Source: CNBC)

Minnesota and a few other states have submitted 1332 waivers to establish similar state reinsurance programs.

### **Big Pension Reforms in PA and MI:**

Pennsylvania's pension reform legislation (SB 1) will enroll new state employees and school teachers in a side-by-side hybrid plan consisting of a defined benefit component and a 401(k)-style

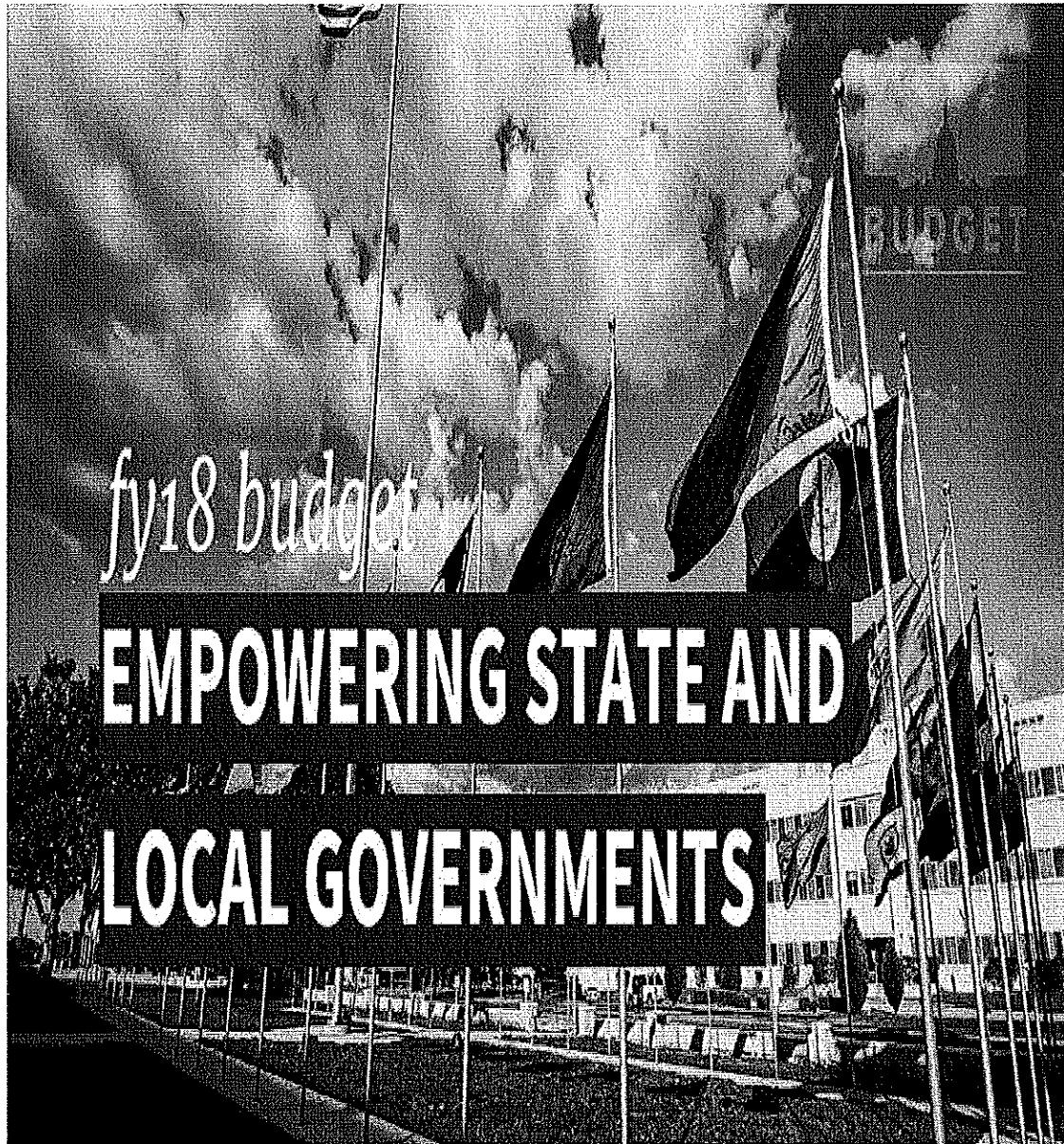
component. New employees could also choose to enroll solely in the 401(k)-style plan, and current employees could choose to opt in to the new system. According to a report from the state's Independent Fiscal Office, the enacted reform will reduce taxpayers' pension risk by approximately two-thirds.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation reforming the state's teacher pension system today, a move financial experts at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy said is more significant than any pension reform achieved in other states. Senate Bill 401 restricts politicians and bureaucrats from adding new unfunded liabilities to the \$29.1 billion already accrued by the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System.

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## TOPLINE MESSAGES

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budget

**FY18**

# BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

*A plan for fiscal responsibility*

BALANCES IN

**10** YEARS

TOTAL DEFICIT  
REDUCTION

**\$6.5**  
TRILLION

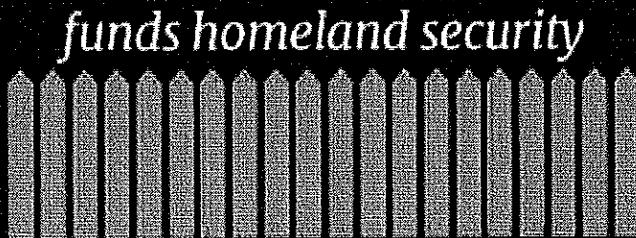
MILITARY  
INCREASE

**\$72.4**  
BILLION

*provides for a STRONG  
NATIONAL  
DEFENSE*



*follows the path to  
REPEAL & REPLACE  
OBAMACARE*



*triggers reconciliation for:*



**tax reform**



**deficit reduction**

*modernizes  
TRANSPORTATION*



*reduces*



inefficiency,  
duplicative programs,  
improper payments.

*cuts*



*red tape / regulations*

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## Military Families Oppose War Against School Choice

Military families are overwhelmingly in favor of private school choice programs, a new report by EdChoice has found. The survey, titled ["Surveying the Military,"](#) included 1,200 active-duty personnel, veterans, and their spouses and showed 72 percent are in favor of education savings accounts (ESAs), 64 percent are in favor of school vouchers, and 63 percent favor tax-credit scholarships. Additionally, the survey results show 51 percent of military respondents believe K-12 education is on the wrong track.

The EdChoice researchers report military parents are more active than other groups of parents and say they need flexibility when it comes to their children's education: "Military families are proactive in the way they support their children's education, and direct receipt of funds—perhaps via ESAs—could extend their involvement and further personalize the education of military-connected students whose lives require immense mobility and flexibility.

"Our survey findings indicate policy influencers and policymakers have a real opportunity to address military families' preferences for personalized student learning and greater access to options in K-12 education," the researchers added.

The information presented by EdChoice is similar to a recent survey produced by [the Military Times](#). According to that poll, 35 percent of respondents say their dissatisfaction with their children's education was a significant factor in deciding whether to continue with their military service. Forty percent said they have either declined or would decline a

better job opportunity to remain at their current military facility because of well-performing schools. The survey concluded, “The men and women who wear the uniform are at risk of voting with their feet if the education of their children suffers because of their choice to serve the nation.”

The success of school choice programs has been well documented, and many families have taken notice of it. In 2016, EdChoice released important empirical research on private school choice programs. According to the researchers, 31 empirical studies found expanded choice options improved public schools; 25 found choice programs saved taxpayers’ money; and eight found school choice strengthened civic values and practices.

Legislators in states with a large number of active-duty military personnel should be mindful of these surveys. Florida and North Carolina, both of which are in the top 10 of states with the highest active-duty populations, have enacted private school choice programs, but California, Hawaii, Kentucky, and Texas are devoid of any, despite having large military family populations.

In a new Research & Commentary on military families’ views on school choice, Heartland Policy Analyst Timothy Benson concluded, “There is no time like the present to help ease the burdens of these courageous men and women. ESAs, vouchers, tax-credit scholarships – none of these programs should be off the table for legislators in 2018. For our servicemen and veterans, it is the least we can do.”

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## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

### **Energy & Environment**

#### How the Premature Retirement of Coal-Fired Power Plants

#### Affects Energy Reliability, Affordability

More than 250 coal-fired power plants in the United States have been retired since 2010. Many more are scheduled for retirement. By prematurely closing coal-powered generation, regulators are imposing billions and potentially trillions of dollars of unnecessary costs on ratepayers. In this Heartland Institute *Policy Study*, Research Fellow Isaac Orr and Senior Fellow Fred Palmer discuss Australia’s experience with policies that forced coal-fired power plants into premature retirement, making large parts of the country dependent on unreliable and high-priced renewable energy, particularly wind power. They also examine the parallels between the United States and Australia and discuss problems faced by states that have aggressively promoted renewable energy, examine the importance of “prudence” and diversified energy portfolios, and evaluate a U.S. Department of Energy study that correctly

identifies natural gas-fired power generators as a reason for coal plant retirements but fails to describe accurately the role played by renewable energy subsidies in those retirement decisions.

#### **Education**

##### Research & Commentary: The Need for Universal ESAs in New Hampshire

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about a recently resurrected bill making its way through the New Hampshire House of Representatives that would establish a universal education savings account (ESA) program in the Granite State. Funding for each ESA would equal 90 percent of New Hampshire's per-pupil adequate education grant amount, except for the kindergarten year, in which funding would be 50 percent. Leftover funds would carry over each year of the child's eligibility and would be available to help pay for tuition at postsecondary schools or used to fund the federal 530 college savings plan, also known as the Coverdell Education Savings Account program. Passage of the bill and establishment of the program would instantly bring New Hampshire to the forefront of the education choice movement.

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#### **Health Care**

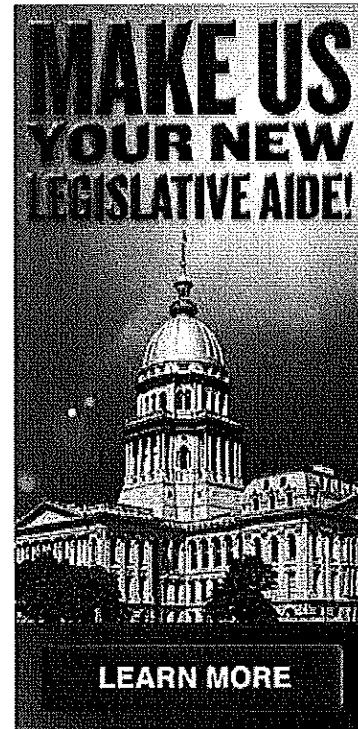
##### Bobbi Herzberg, Mercatus Center: The Attack of the Zombie Obamacare Death Panel

In this edition of *The Heartland Daily Podcast*, the Mercatus Center's Bobbi Herzberg joins the show to talk about the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), a forgotten part of the Affordable Care Act once referred to as "death panels." Instead of allowing the board to just shamble around without a head, Herzberg says Congress should put IPAB out of its misery and eliminate it entirely.

#### **Budget & Tax**

##### Research & Commentary: Vaping Taxes and Bans Hurt Smokers Trying to Quit

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans and State Government Relations Manager Lindsey Stroud examine vaping bans and taxes and how they block what is for many smokers a viable method for quitting. "Placing excise taxes and bans on vaping products deter current smokers from quitting more-harmful combustible cigarettes, disproportionately harm low-income taxpayers, and punish local businesses. If state lawmakers prevent local governments from imposing regressive taxes and bans on vaping products, it could have a positive impact on public health, by helping more tobacco smokers quit," wrote Glans and Stroud.



#### **POLICY NEWSPAPER**



In the October 2017 issue, Chavey reports about the proposed regulation in Massachusetts to require out-

### **From Our Free-Market Friends**

#### Let Them Fill Growlers

Jarrett Skorup of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy examines House Bill 5175, currently making its way through Michigan's state legislature. According to Skorup, the bill "lowers the threshold by one major step to make it easier for people to buy and sell beer" and "expands the ability for people to freely buy a legal product with no cost to the state or other residents." Michigan has some of the most burdensome regulations on the production, transportation, and sale of alcohol. These regulations artificially increase the price of alcohol and ensure the existence of a black market. The passage of HB 5175 would be a step in the direction of freedom.

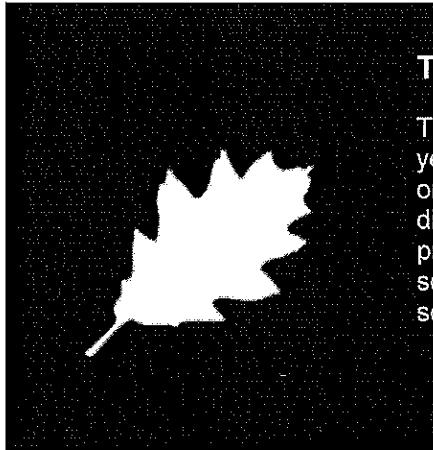
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of-state online businesses to collect and pay sales taxes to the state. NetChoice, a trade association for online businesses, has halted the implementation of this regulation by filing a lawsuit in the state's Superior Court.

#### Environment & Climate News

#### Health Care News

#### School Reform News



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## School Choice Increases Student Safety and Improves Learning

Florida children will now have a greater ability to choose the school they attend, as well as increased scholarship opportunities, after Gov. Rick Scott (R) signed House Bill 7055 into law on Sunday. The Sunshine State is already a leader in the national school choice movement, but this new law bolsters the state's drive for education freedom in two important ways.

First, it increases funding to the Gardiner Scholarship Program, an education savings account (ESA) program for special-needs students. Second, it establishes the Hope Scholarship Program—a unique voucher allowing victims of bullying, harassment, and violence in K-12 public schools to enroll in another public or private school.

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In response to the law's passage, Heartland Publications Director Sam Karnick said, "Government policies that force children to go to schools where bullies lie in wait or other unsafe conditions are tolerated does great emotional and academic harm to the most vulnerable children. No child should be required to attend a school where he or she feels unsafe. Every state should have a program like Florida's, and in fact every state should make such relief universal for all children who suffer from feeling unsafe at school."

In a recent article, Kevin Currie-Knight and Jason Bedrick of EdChoice outline how education choice initiatives help prevent school bullying and reduce dangerous school environments. It is estimated between 25 percent and 33 percent of students have been bullied at school. The epidemic of school bullying has coincided with a disturbing uptick in teen suicide rates.

In their article, Currie-Knight and Bedrick also include some of the heartbreak letters they've received from parents desperately hoping for school choice options because their local public school has failed to protect their children from bullying.

The Florida school choice legislation comes at a time when the National Center for Education Statistics' latest *Condition of Education* report shows that average scores in reading and mathematics have largely remained static since the 1970s. Only 36 percent of 4th grade students and 34 percent of 8th graders performed at or above the proficient level in reading. For math, the results are equally dismal. Just 40 percent of 4th students performed at or above proficiency and just 33 percent of 8th graders achieved the baseline proficient score.

State legislators should take note of the overall subpar performance of American children and work to create school choice programs that give those kids better opportunities.

Polling shows parents overwhelming support school choice programs. For instance, a recent American Federation for Children survey found nearly two-thirds of likely voters

support school choice, including 41 percent who strongly support it. School choice is even stronger among Latinos and African-Americans.

An EdChoice report concluded the overwhelming empirical research on private education choice programs demonstrates they improve academic outcomes for private *and* public schools, save taxpayer money, and help improve classroom diversity.

As Policy Analyst Tim Benson concludes in his *Research & Commentary*, "The goal of public education in the United States today and in the years to come should be to allow all parents to choose which schools their children attend, require every school to compete for every student who walks through its doors, and make sure every child has the opportunity to attend a quality school."

## What We're Working On

### Energy & Environment

A Critique of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's 2017 Climate Science Special Report

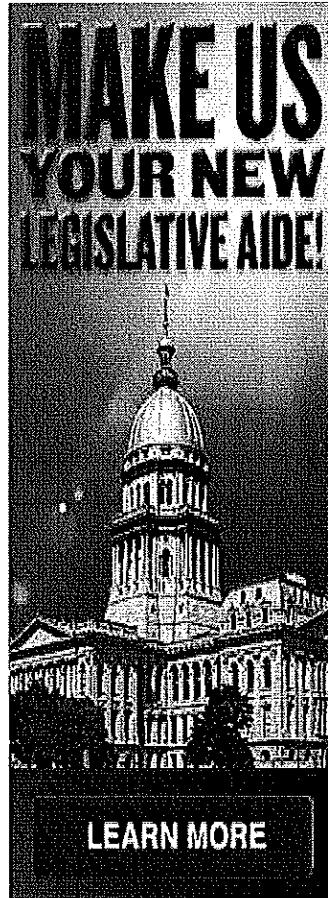
This Heartland Institute *Policy Study* evaluates and rebuts the "Climate Science Special Report" (CSSR) released by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) in November 2017. This 52-page response by Heartland Science Director Jay Lehr and 18 distinguished climate scientists and meteorologists provides a devastating critique of CSSR, which, according to the authors, suffers from many of the same shortcomings appearing in prior work produced by USGCRP. This *Policy Study* refutes CSSR's assumption that "the science is settled" concerning global warming and exposes the report's inherent biases. For instance, the authors posit the CSSR relies heavily on information from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which has a long history of making failed predictions and creating deeply flawed reports. The report also uses hard data to prove extreme weather events, such as wildfires, droughts, and hurricanes, have not become more frequent or powerful in recent years, despite many claims to the contrary made by environmentalists and USGCRP scientists.

### Education

Public Schools Are Failing U.S. Students

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about the first in a series of papers from the Center for Education Reform (CER). CER reports nearly half of all American students are growing up in low-income families without access to a quality education. Benson notes the paper provides a litany of data showing the mediocre job the traditional public school system has done in educating U.S. children, and Benson argues improving education in America is the most urgent public policy challenge facing lawmakers today, stating that the key to improving K-12 education is increasing school choice opportunities.

### Budget & Tax



### Steve Forbes' Epic Rant

The Heartland Institute's newly launched *Flashes of Freedom* video series features Steve Forbes, who argues capitalism is not only effective, it's moral. In his presentation, Forbes, a former presidential candidate and editor-in-chief of *Forbes* magazine, dispels the popular sentiment that capitalism is evil and greedy, and instead argues that free-market capitalism, coupled with limited government, is the most moral economic system in history. "The truth is markets are moral ... because they meet the needs and wants of other people," Forbes said.



### Health Care

#### How One State Is Trying to Make Health Insurance Affordable Again

Heartland Government Relations Coordinator Arianna Wilkerson, writing in *Townhall*, highlights some Iowa lawmakers' efforts to relieve people in the state of their expensive, ever-rising health insurance premiums. Two bills currently advancing through Iowa's legislature would facilitate the creation of association health plans and allow nonprofit agricultural organizations to offer health benefit plans, not insurance, to their members. Both bills would benefit consumers in the Hawkeye State by giving them more health care choices.

### From Our Free-Market Friends

Want Money For Roads? Take It from This Failing Program

Michael LaFaive and Jarrett Skorup of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy argue Michigan should abandon its Michigan Business Development Program (MBDP), which provides subsidies to businesses that have been cherry-picked by bureaucrats. Currently, the state's budget allocates about \$115 million into MBDP and related subsidy programs. Since Michigan lawmakers are clamoring for more dollars to fund infrastructure, ending the program would make \$115 million available, which, according to LaFaive and Skorup, is being wasted. A review of MBDP finds that every \$500,000 spent on

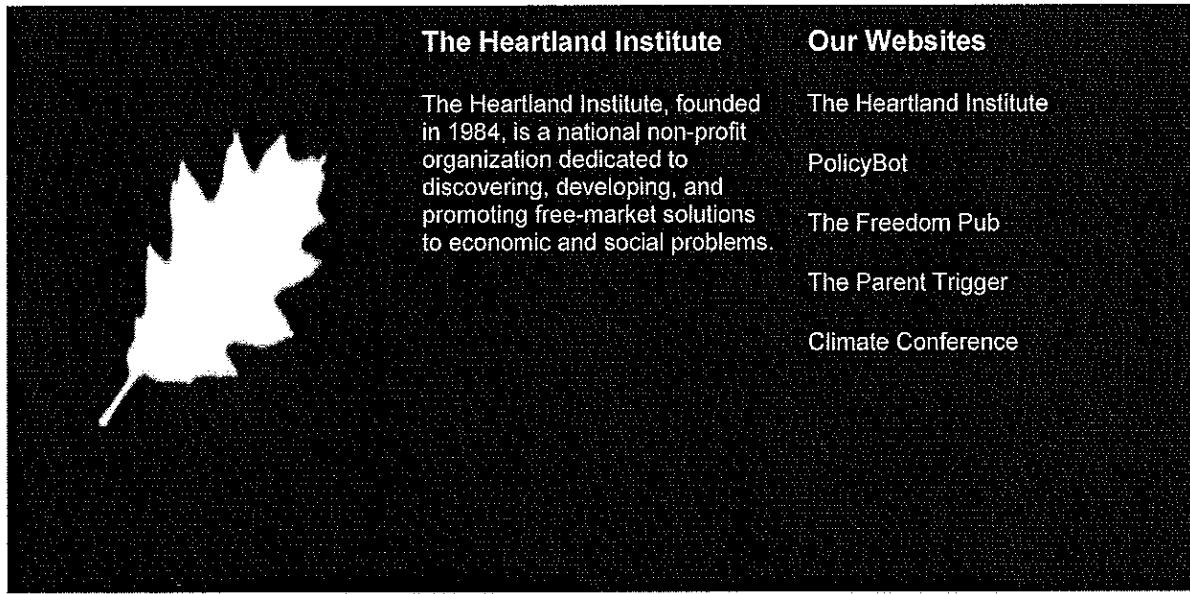
In the February issue of *Budget & Tax News*, Lindsey Curnette reports about a manufacturing company responding to a business incentive: Wisconsin's Right-to-Work law. The company is moving jobs from its plant in Arizona to its Wisconsin facility. The company will also hire local workers for other high-paying positions.

[School Reform News](#)

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business incentives is correlated with 600 fewer jobs in the county in which the project took place.



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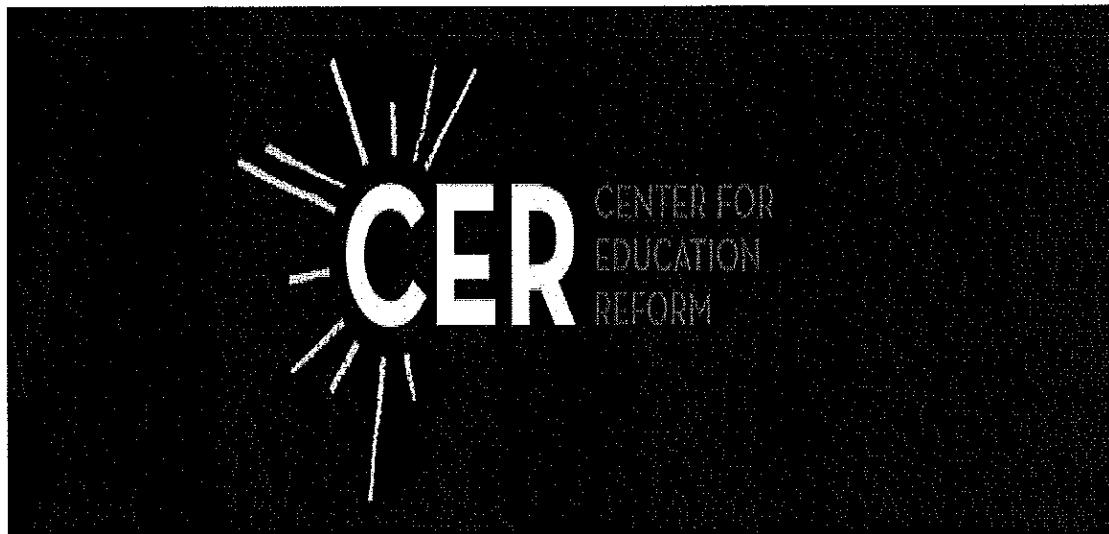
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# newswire

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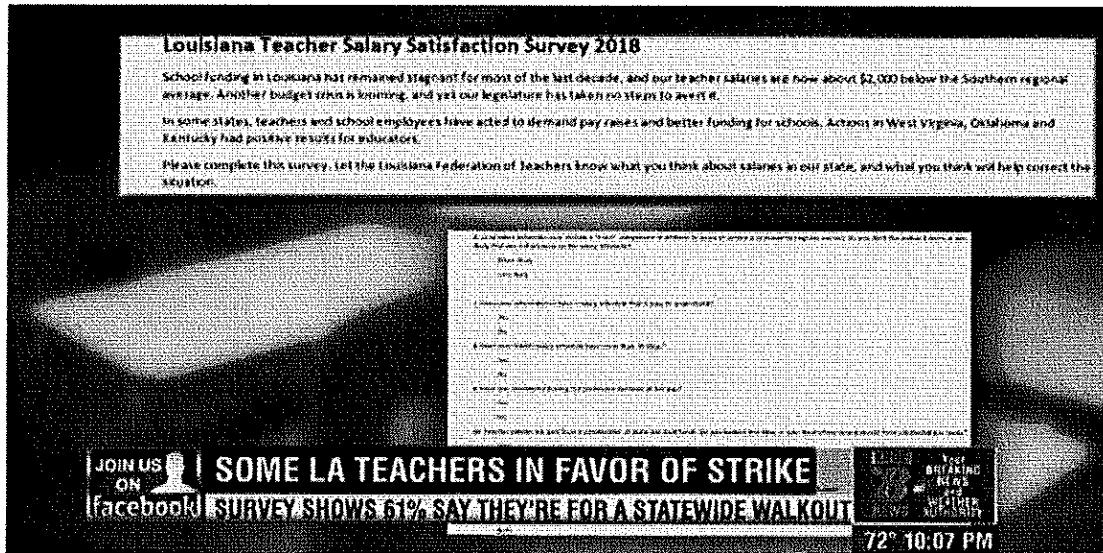
**PRIMARY DAY.** It's a great reminder of what's at stake, and a time for all to exercise their right to vote, not to mention their responsibility to know what it is they are voting for. A little civics knowledge courtesy of the Bill of Rights foundation might help you or your class, now and in the future to understand what it is we can all achieve if we focus on the issues. Let's start (and end) with education, a core function of any Governor. Today Texas, Georgia and Arkansas will nominate candidates for Governor to elect in November. In all, 36 states and 3 territories will elect state execs this year. Get to know what you should be asking and thinking now. CER's handy-dandy voter's

guide Education 50 is chock full of information to guide you and will be an up-to-date analysis of all major state races for November's final contests.

**MORE UNION DISSENT. This time in South Carolina.** Dubbed a "mobilization", the rally at least took place on a Saturday when the livelihood of the children was not at stake. Want more money and benefits? Teachers should get up to speed on what's really preventing that from happening. (Hint: It's not education reform).

**BAIT & SWITCH.** The media have been hoodwinked clearly by catchy surveys conducted by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers claiming a majority of teachers support their strikes and demonstrations. Take a look at this loaded question they used to stir the pot. Again, teachers should ask themselves, what has the union done lately to ensure that school spending reaches the classroom, to reduce their dues, to reduce pension costs, ensure that salaries not be topped off at the end of a teacher's career, and that greatness is rewarded, while mediocrity is not? The reality is that most teachers don't know how they are paid, or why.

## New survey shows nearly 4,000 Louisiana teachers would strike, quit for higher pay



**WHEN THEY CAN'T WIN THEY SUE.** Repeated lawsuits initiated by the unions against the tiny Washington State charter school law are going to prevent more students like Jalen Johnson, an 11th-grader at Summit Sierra charter school in Seattle, from succeeding. Johnson told the crowd at a pro-charter rally that the commitment of his teachers helped turn him from an average middle-school student who had little thought of attending college to a thriving high-school junior who hopes to study urban planning at the University of California at Berkeley. "This is how every school should be." That's the same theme in Georgia in a news report about charter school graduates. "Public school choice, in the form of successful, innovative public charter schools, helps struggling children thrive and graduate."

**SPEAKING OF GRADUATES,** Michigan's charter schools are forcing some who have long used flawed data to condemn Detroit charters to eat their words. Turns out that with struggle comes progress (as one of our friends would say). A dollar spent by a Detroit charter yields 2.5x lifetime earnings, according new a new report by the Mackinac Center. Indeed 8 of the 10 top high schools in Detroit for college enrollment were charter schools. Despite the

good news, the Gubernatorial Democratic frontrunner in Michigan announced earlier this month his “war on charter schools.” Shri Thanedar is campaigning on a plan to ban most Michigan charter schools. His competitor Gretchen Whitmer is following his lead.

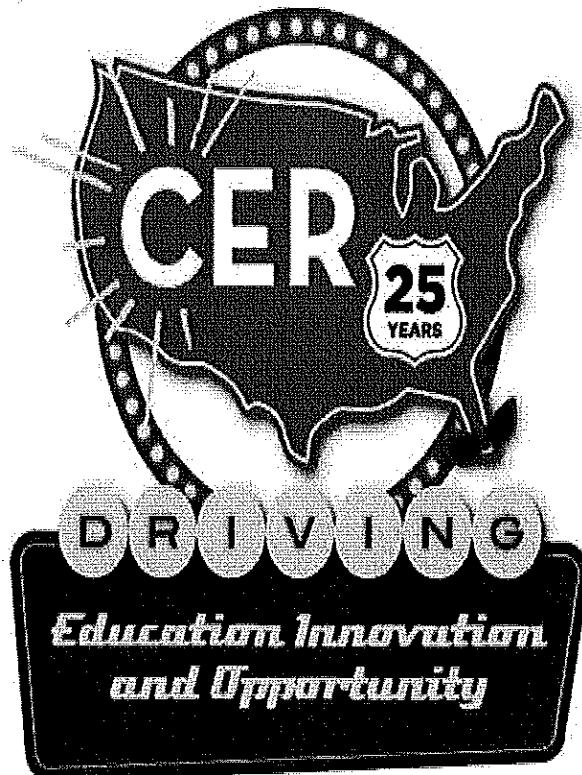
**ILLINOIS CHOICES UNDER ATTACK, TOO.** Political efforts motivated by stiff teacher union pressure threaten the elimination of the successful Invest in Kids Act program, despite its popularity and necessity. Empower Illinois received 24,000 applications as soon as its scholarship program went live, causing its website to crash, and is up to 50,000. The state tax credit program is decried by the teachers’ union because it’s a policy that supports educational alternatives. So as the unions work to pull teachers out of school they are also trying to stop kids from going to schools that meet their needs. Go figure.

**FLORIDA DISTRICTS FIGHT** equality for kids while they deny charter public schools their equal right to property tax money.

**DESPITE FAILURE & SAFTEY ISSUES**, the head of the National Education Association (NEA) is galloping into Kentucky to the fight proposed state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools.

**LET US PRAY. THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED SCOTUS *JANUS v. AFSCME RULING*** in late June could mean a seismic shift for teachers’ unions. With the strong possibility of a ruling Mark Janus’ favor, releasing non-union teachers from mandatory fees, the nation’s largest teachers’ union, the National Teachers Association (NEA) has announced a projected loss of 300,000 members over two years and accordingly, a proposed annual budget reduction of \$50 million. For more details and analysis on the case and how its outcome will affect all educators and students, listen to this Monday’s Reality Check with Jeanne Allen with guest Colin Sharkey, executive vice president of the Association of American Educators.

Check out this week's Reality Check w/Jeanne Allen for an interview with North Carolina charter school leaders about the strikes and their prescription for success.



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